The GREAT STORIES of the BIBLE for CHILDREN

ILLUSTRATED

E. Hallett

THE BEAUTIFUL GARDEN OF EDEN

THE GREAT STORIES OF THE BIBLE

FOR CHILDREN ∞ ILLUSTRATED

With Foreword
by
GEO. H. SANDISON
Editor Emeritus The Christian Herald

"For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared with it." *Proverbs 8:11.*

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FOREWORD

IT HAS been my pleasant privilege to read the books of the "Great Stories of the Bible." Of the various books of the kind that have appeared in the past forty years or more, I can not recall one the reading of which has given me more satisfaction. The author has very skillfully chosen those themes that have a special appeal to the young. With rare judgment he has chosen those that celebrate not alone the heroic virtues, but such as kindle in the youthful mind the desire for the minor virtues as well. There are in the Bible many luminous biographies, which are partly hidden in the mass of other matter, and with good judgment he has chosen the best of these and made of them a chain of individual stories, each set amid its proper surroundings, and every one of which stands here by itself, complete and absorbing, and in its rightful place in the order of Bible history. From the children of our first parents, all through the centuries down to the Divine Child of Bethlehem, the glory and joy of those men and women who have become illustrious in world history are

here set before the reader. All that children love in character and action are here, and the nobler qualities of manhood and womanhood are set forth in a way that will delight their hearts and awaken their admiration.

In these days of world-wide religious discussion, when the need of a closer acquaintance with the Bible is everywhere felt, I know of no better way of making God's Word attractive to our young folks than by putting within the reach of every family circle in our land, a copy of these "Bible Stories." It is a book which explains itself and can be easily understood by its youthful readers. Within its 384 pages is an unexplored mine of delightful stories that will be read and re-read with keen interest and which for me at least, seem to possess a charm that will appeal to the grown-up folks as well.

The publishers have made the book unusually attractive in the choice of illustrations. These pictures are of the highest artistic quality, and all of them appropriate to the text. Altogether it is a book specially fitted for the times and the need for Biblical knowledge, and I believe this will be the judgment of every one who reads it.

GEO. H. SANDISON

Editor Emeritus The Christian Herald

CAIN'S JEALOUSY OVER ABEL'S SACRIFICE

THE DOVE RETURNS TO NOAH'S ARK

THE STORY OF THE BEAUTIFUL GARDEN

WHEN God created Adam and Eve, he formed a beautiful garden in Eden for their home. Rare flowers and food-bearing trees and plants were all about. Adam and Eve were very contented in this wonderful place.

One day, while Eve was walking alone, a serpent spoke to her, saying: "You have not tasted the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil—pray, why not?" Eve answered, "God hath said we may eat the fruit of all trees but that one. We may not even touch it or woe will be upon us." And the serpent responded, "Be not afraid. Eat, the fruit is delicious." So Eve ate the fruit and perhaps because it had been forbidden, its taste was very sweet to her. When Adam came, she coaxed him, too,

to partake of it. And both ate freely thereof. When darkness fell and the air grew cool, Adam and Eve heard God in the garden. On other days they would go joyfully forth to greet the Lord, but this day they hid in the dense foliage. And God said to Adam, "Adam, where art thou?" Adam answered, "I was afraid and hid because I am naked." God replied, "You have eaten fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, that is why you know you are naked. You have disobeyed my commandments and shall suffer. The serpent, for his part, shall be despised by all living creatures and shall crawl upon the earth. Adam and Eve, you shall leave this garden and by the sweat of your brows and the work of your hands shall you obtain your living."

The happy days in the beautiful Garden of Eden were over, and Adam and Eve set forth in search of a new home.

The Story of Cain and Abel

ADAM and Eve had two sons, Cain and Abel. Cain, who was the older, was a farmer and tilled the soil. Abel was a shepherd and tended his sheep.

After the harvest, Cain brought fruit and grain to the Lord, as an offering, and Abel brought the first lambs that were born in his flock. God was better pleased with the sacrifice that Abel had made, and this made Cain very angry.

Then the Lord said to Cain, "Why do you scowl and hate your brother? Your brother has done you no harm. If you are kind and good, and if you do well all that is given to you to do, you will be loved by everyone, and I will make you a leader among men." But Cain did not listen to the Lord. He called Abel to the fields and killed him. This was murder, the greatest sin that anyone could commit.

Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is your brother?" Cain knew that he had done wrong, and was afraid to answer truthfully, so he said, "I know not where Abel is. Am I my brother's keeper?"

God expects us to protect those who are younger and weaker than ourselves, and so he said to Cain, "You have taken the life of your brother. You have spilled his blood upon the ground and for this you will suffer as long as you live. Your fields will be taken from you. If you plant seeds in other lands they will not grow. You will be a wanderer, a tramp upon the face of the earth."

Then Cain cried unto the Lord and said, "My punishment is greater than I can bear. I shall hide myself, for if people see me they will slay me." But God said to Cain, "I will place a mark upon you, so that no one will kill you."

God is always merciful and kind.

Noah, The Ark Builder

EVERYWHERE in the world people were very wicked. They had evil thoughts and their lives were very sinful.

God was grieved and regretted that He had made the earth, and He decided to destroy every living thing. But there was one man, Noah, who was a just man, whom God spared.

God called Noah and said to him, "The world is filled with wickedness and I will destroy everything upon it. You alone, have been a good man and have found favor in my eyes. Build me an ark, three stories high, of cypress wood, and cover it with pitch, which is made of tar, and will keep the waters out. Build the ark five hundred feet long, eighty feet wide and fifty feet high. Place a door in the side, and a window, and then go into the ark as I command you. Take with you your wife, your sons and your sons' wives. Take also two of every living thing, a male and female, cattle, fowls, birds and reptiles. Take food to keep all who are in the ark alive, for in seven days, I will send a flood upon the earth, that will destroy every living thing."

Noah did as the Lord commanded him and went into the ark, with his family and two of every living thing.

In seven days, as the Lord had said, the water covered the earth, and for forty days and nights the rain fell. The valleys, the hills, and the mountains were covered and everything upon them perished. Only Noah, and those who were with him in the ark remained alive.

Then God caused a wind to pass over the earth and the rain ceased and the waters receded. Noah opened the window in the ark and sent forth a raven which went to and fro until the waters were dried up. Also he sent forth a dove, to see if there was any dry land. But the dove found no rest for her feet, so returned to the ark. After seven days, Noah again sent forth the dove and when she returned in the evening, there was an olive leaf in her mouth. So Noah knew that the waters had gone from the earth. Noah waited seven days and then sent forth the dove again, but this time the dove did not return.

The waters had dried up, and God told Noah to take the covering from the ark and go forth, with

all that had been with him during the flood. Noah built an altar and brought sacrifice unto the Lord and the Lord said, "I will never again destroy the ground because of man. While the earth remains, seed time and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night shall not cease. I will set my rainbow in the clouds, and it shall be a token that I will remember the promise that I made."

And so, God blessed Noah, who had been a righteous man.

Abraham, "The Man Whom God Loved"

NOAH'S sons were Shem, Ham and Japheth, and they had many children. One of their descendants was Abram, who lived in Ur, a city of the Chaldees.

One day, God said to Abram, "Go out from your country and from your people, to a land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation and I will bless you. I will make your name great, and you shall be a blessing. I will bless them that bless you, and through you shall all the families of the earth be blessed."

So Abram took Sarah, his wife, and Lot, his brother's son, and everything that they had, and went forth to the land of Canaan. Abram passed through the land until he came to Sichem, on the plains of Moreh, and there he built an altar and prayed to the Lord. The Lord appeared unto Abram and said, "Unto your children, I will give this land." Then they journeyed on to a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched their tents, and there Abram built another altar to the Lord. Still Abram traveled on, toward the South, until

ABRAHAM PREPARES TO OFFER UP ISAAC

ABRAHAM'S SERVANT MEETS REBEKAH AT THE WELL

he came to Egypt, for there was famine in the land.

Abram settled in Egypt and years of plenty followed. Abram became very rich in cattle, in silver and in gold. Then he journeyed back to where his tent had been in the beginning, between Bethel and Hai. It was the place where Abram had built the first altar, and he found the altar there. Lot, who was with Abram, also had many flocks, herds and tents. The land could not yield enough grain for so many, and there was a quarrel between the herdmen of Abram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle. Then Abram said unto Lot, "Let there be no strife, I pray you, between you and me. Let there also be no quarrel between your herdmen and my herdmen, for we are of the same family. Is not the whole land before you? Separate yourself from me. If you go to the left, then I will go to the right. If you depart to the right, then I will go to the left." Then Lot lifted up his eyes and saw that the plain of the Jordan was well watered, and he separated from Abram and pitched his tent near Sodom.

The Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Lift up your eyes and look; from the

place where you are now, northward, southward, eastward and westward, all the land which you see, I will give to you and to your children. Your children and your children's children will be as many as the dust of the earth. If a man can number the dust of the earth, then he can count the number of your children. Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you."

Then Abram moved his tent to the plain of Mamre, which is in Hebron, and built there an altar unto the Lord.

Celestial Visitors to Abraham

ONE day, when the sun was very hot, Abram was seated in his tent door. He lifted up his eyes and saw three men coming toward him. Abram ran to meet them and offered them water and food, and invited them to rest.

They said to Abram, "Where is Sarah, thy wife." He told them that she was in the tent. One of the strangers said, "When we return, you and Sarah will have a son." Abram and Sarah were very happy.

Then the Lord said to Abram, "You will become a great and mighty nation, and bless all the nations of the earth—for you and your children will follow the way that I have shown you and be righteous and just." And in token of his approval of Abram's righteousness, God said "Thy name shall be Abraham."

And the Lord remembered what he had promised, and a son was born to Abraham and Sarah.

Hagar was one of Abraham's slaves and she had a son named Ishmael. Hagar and Ishmael dis-

pleased Sarah, so they were sent away. In a few days, the water and bread they had taken with them were gone, and they wandered about the wilderness and were hungry and thirsty. Ishmael cried, and the Lord heard him. The Angel of God called to Hagar, out of the heavens, and said, "Hagar, fear not; God has heard the voice of the lad. Arise, and take him by the hand. He will become a great nation." God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water in the desert. So they dwelt in the wilderness and Ishmael became a great hunter.

Abraham's Obedience Rewarded

ONE day, God called to Abraham, and Abraham answered saying, "Here am I." God said to him, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there for a burnt offering, upon one of the mountains which I will tell you of."

Abraham arose early in the morning and chopped the wood for the burnt offering, took Isaac, his son, and went to the place of which God had spoken to him. Abraham took the wood, laid it upon Isaac, his son, and then took the fire in his hand. Isaac said, "My father, here is the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" Abraham said, "My son, God will provide himself with a lamb, for a burnt offering." Abraham built an altar, laid the wood upon it, bound Isaac, his son, and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. Abraham took the knife to slay his son. Then the Angel of the Lord called unto him, out of the heavens, and said, "Abraham, Abraham," and he answered, "Here am I." Then the Angel said, "Lay not your

hand upon the lad, neither do you anything unto him, for now I know that you fear the Lord, and did not keep your son, your only son, from Him."

Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw a ram caught in a bush and Abraham took the ram, offering him as a burnt offering instead of his son. Then because Abraham was willing to do what he was commanded by the Lord, even ready to sacrifice his only son, God blessed him and told him that his people would increase and number as the stars in the sky and the sands upon the sea-shore.

Seeking a Wife For Isaac

ABRAHAM was old and God had blessed him in every way. All that he wished for was a wife for his son Isaac, from his own people and not from the Canaanites, among whom they were living.

So Abraham called a servant and told him to take camels and go to the city of Nahor, in Mesopotamia. When the servant arrived near Nahor, he made the camels kneel down by a well of water, just outside the city. It was evening, at the time when the women came out to draw water. Then the servant prayed to God and said, "O, Lord, God of my master Abraham, I pray Thee, show kindness unto my master Abraham. Behold I stand here by the well of water; and the daughters of the men of the city come out to draw. Let it come to pass that the maiden to whom I shall say, 'Let down your pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink,' and she shall say, 'Drink and I will give thy camels drink also'; let her be the same that Thou hast appointed for Thy servant Isaac, and thereby shall I know that Thou hast been kind to my master." And lo—

Rebekah came out, with a pitcher upon her shoulder. She was very beautiful and she was not married. She went down to the well and filled her pitcher and came up. The servant ran to meet her, and said, "Let me, I pray you, drink a little water of your pitcher." And she said, "Drink, my lord, and I will draw water for your camels also, until they have done drinking." And she hurried and emptied her pitcher into the trough, and ran again to the well to draw water for all his camels.

The man gave her gifts of earrings and bracelets of gold and said, "Whose daughter are you?" She answered, "I am the daughter of Bethuel, the son of Milcah whom she bare unto Nahor." He then asked her if there was room in her father's house for him and his men and straw for his camels, and she said there was room for all, and straw for the camels. Then the man bowed his head and worshipped the Lord.

Rebekah ran and told those in her mother's house about the stranger. Her brother, whose name was Laban, went to the well to meet the man, and invited him to come into the house and to feed his camels. But the stranger refused to eat the

food that was offered to him until he had told them his errand. "I am," he said, "Abraham's servant. The Lord has blessed my master greatly; and has given him flocks, herds, silver, gold, many servants and many cattle. He and Sarah, his wife, have an only son, Isaac, to whom they have given all they have. My master does not wish Isaac to choose a wife among the Canaanites, so he bade me come to this city of Nahor, where his people dwell and find a wife for his son. 'Perhaps,' I said to him, 'the maiden will not follow me,' and Abraham replied, 'The Lord, in whose way I walk, will send His angels with you and prosper you, and a wife for Isaac will come with you from my people,' and behold—the maiden whom the Lord appointed, gave me water from her pitcher to drink and also drew water for my camels. Will you deal kindly with my master and send Rebekah to be the wife of Isaac?" And the next day, Rebekah and her nurse went with Abraham's servant.

Isaac was in the field when he saw the camels coming, and he went to meet Rebekah and took her to his mother's tent, and she became his wife, and he loved her very much.

Esau Loses His Birthright and Blessing

ISAAC and Rebekah had two sons, Esau and Jacob. Esau, whose skin was rough and hairy, was a hunter, a man of the field and Jacob was a plain man, dwelling in tents. Isaac loved Esau and ate of the venison which he brought to him, but Rebekah loved Jacob, who planted seeds and raised plants and grain.

One day, Esau came from the fields and was very hungry. He asked Jacob for some stew. Jacob said, "Sell me this day thy birthright." Esau said, "Behold, I am at the point of death, my birthright is of no use to me." Jacob said, "Swear to me this day." And Esau sold his birthright unto Jacob for a dish of pottage. Then Jacob gave Esau a dish of lentils and Esau ate, rose up and went his way.

When Isaac was old and his eyes dim, so that he could not see, he called Esau, his eldest son, and said to him, "Behold, I am old and know not when I may die. Take thy weapons, thy bow and arrow, and get me some venison and make me some savory

meat, such as I like, and bring it to me, that I may eat and I shall bless thee before I die." Rebekah heard when Isaac said this to his son. Esau went to the field to hunt for venison and to bring it to Isaac, his father.

Then Rebekah called Jacob and said, "Behold, I heard thy father speak unto Esau, thy brother, saying, 'Bring me venison and make me savory meat that I may bless thee before my death.' Now, therefore, Jacob, my son, obey my voice according to that which I command thee. Go to the flock and bring me two good kids of the goats, and I will make them savory meat for thy father, such as he loveth. And thou shalt bring it to thy father that he may eat, and that he may bless thee before his death." Jacob said to Rebekah, his mother, "Behold, Esau, my brother, is a hairy man, and I am a smooth man. My father will feel me and I shall seem to him as a deceiver, and I shall bring a curse upon me, and not a blessing." His mother said unto him, "Upon me be thy curse, my son; only obey me and bring the young goats to me."

Jacob went and brought the goats to his mother, who made them savory meat, such as the father

loved. Rebekah took clothes of her eldest son, Esau, which were in the house, and put them upon Jacob, her younger son. She put the skin of the kids upon Jacob's hands, and upon his neck and gave the savory meat and bread which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob.

Jacob came to his father and said, "My father." Isaac said, "Here am I, and who art thou, my son?" Jacob said unto his father, "I am Esau, thy first born. I have done according as thou badest me: arise I pray thee, sit and eat of my venison, that thy soul may bless me." Isaac said unto his son, "How is it that thou hast found it so quickly, my son?" And he said, "Because the Lord, thy God, brought it to me." And Isaac said unto Jacob, "Come near, I pray thee, that I may feel thee, my son, whether thou be my son Esau or not." And Jacob went near unto Isaac, his father, and he felt him and said, "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau." And Isaac did not discover that Jacob was pretending to be Esau, because his hands were hairy and rough, so he blessed him. He said "Art thou my very son Esau?" Jacob said, "I am." He then brought his father

the savory meat, which Isaac ate. Then Isaac said, "Come near now, and kiss me, my son." He smelled the smell of the clothes that Jacob had on, and blessed him and said, "The smell of my son is as the smell of a field which the Lord hath blessed. Therefore, God give thee of the dew of heaven, and the fruit of the earth and plenty of corn and grapes. Let people serve thee and nations bow down to thee. Be lord over thy brethren and let thy mother's sons bow down to thee; cursed be everyone that curseth thee, and blessed be he that blesseth thee."

And it came to pass, as soon as Isaac had made an end of blessing Jacob, and Jacob had gone out from the tent of his father, that Esau came in from his hunting. He also had made savory meat and brought it to his father and said, "Let my father arise and eat of his son's venison, that thy soul may bless me." And Isaac, his father, said, "Who art thou?" He said, "I am thy son, thy first born son, Esau." And Isaac trembled and was very angry and said, "Who? Where is he that hath taken venison and brought it to me and I have eaten of it before thou camest and have blessed him? Yes, and he shall be blessed." When Esau heard the

words of his father, he cried with a great and bitter cry and said unto his father, "Bless me also, O my father," Isaac said, "Thy brother, Jacob, came with a disguise and has taken away thy blessing." "He has supplanted me twice," said Esau, "first he took away my birthright, and now behold, he has taken away my blessing. Hast thou not reserved a blessing for me?" Isaac answered and said to Esau, "Behold, I have made him thy master and all his brothers I have given to him for servants, and much corn and fruit, and what shall I do now unto thee, my son?" Esau said, "Hast thou not one blessing, my father?" Esau lifted up his voice and wept. Isaac, his father, answered, "By thy sword shalt thou live and shalt serve thy brother, but the time will come when thou wilt be free."

Jacob's Vision of the Heavenly Ladder

ESAU hated Jacob because of the blessing which his father had given him and said he would kill Jacob. Rebekah, to whom this was told, called Jacob and said to him, "Behold, your brother Esau is going to kill you. Now therefore, obey me. Go away, to your uncle's house in Laban, and stay with him until your brother forgets what you have done to him, and is no longer angry. Then I will send for you, for I can not lose you both in one day."

And Rebekah said to Isaac, "I am weary of my life. For of what good will my life be to me if Jacob takes as his wife one of the daughters of this land of Heth." Isaac called Jacob and blessed him and told him that he must not take as his wife, one of the daughters of Canaan, but that he should go to Padanaram, to the house of Bethuel, and select a wife from among the daughters of Laban. And Isaac sent away Jacob with a blessing.

Jacob journeyed toward Haran and at the end of the day, when the sun was set, he took some stones, for his pillow, and lay down to sleep. He

dreamed. Behold, a ladder stood upon the earth and the top of it reached to heaven. The angels of God were going up and down on it. Behold, the Lord stood above it, and said, "I am the Lord, God of Abraham, thy father, and the God of Isaac; the land whereon thou liest, I will give to you and your children—and you will have many children and grandchildren—and they will live in many lands, in the west, in the east, in the south and in the north, and they will be a blessing to the people about them." Jacob awoke out of his dream and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place," and he took the stone that had been his pillow and set it up for a pillar and poured oil upon it and he called the name of the place Bethel. Jacob made a vow that if God would be with him and protect him on his journey until he returned to his father's house, he would always be his Lord and that one-tenth of all that he had, he would give to the Lord.

ESAU SELLS HIS BIRTHRIGHT TO JACOB

JACOB AND ESAU RECONCILED

Jacob Finds Happiness at Haran

THEN Jacob went on his journey and came to the land of the people of the East. He saw there a well in the field and there were three flocks of sheep lying by it, for out of the well the flocks were watered, but a great stone covered the well. The shepherds rolled the stone from the well and watered the sheep, and Jacob asked them who they were, and they told him that they were from Haran. He asked them if they knew Laban, son of Nahor, and they answered that they did; that the shepherdess who was coming across the field, with a flock of sheep, was Rachel, Nahor's daughter.

Jacob went to meet Rachel and kissed her, weeping for joy, for she was the daughter of his mother's brother. Jacob watered the sheep that Rachel was tending and she ran and told her father.

When Laban heard that Jacob, his sister's son, had arrived, he ran to meet him and embraced him, kissed him and brought him to his house. Jacob visited him for a month. Then Laban said to him, "Because you are my relative, should you

serve me without pay? Tell me, what shall your wages be?"

Laban had two daughters, the name of the elder was Leah and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah had weak eyes, but Rachel was beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel and said to Laban, her father, "I will serve you seven years for your daughter Rachel, your youngest daughter, whom I love." Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than to another man; abide with me." Jacob served seven years for Rachel and they seemed to him but a few days, for he loved her dearly.

Jacob went to Laban and said, "Give me Rachel, for I have served you seven years for her." Laban gathered together all the men of the place and made a feast. But it was Leah that he gave Jacob for a wife. Jacob was very angry and he said to Laban, "Did I not serve you for Rachel?" and Laban said, "It is not the custom in our country to give the younger to be married before the first born. I will give you Rachel also and you shall serve me another seven years." Jacob loved Rachel more than Leah and served for her another seven years.

Jacob Makes Peace With Esau

ACOB became very rich and this displeased Laban, so that the Lord said to Jacob, "Return to the land of your fathers and I will be with you."

Jacob called Rachel and Leah to him and said to them, "Your father is not friendly with me as he was before, but the Lord has been with me. You know that with all my heart I have served your father, but he deceived me and God has commanded me to return to the land of my people." Then Rachel and Leah said to him, "Whatsoever God has said to you, do." Then Jacob rose up and set his wives and sons upon camels; and he carried away all his cattle and journeyed to the country of Edom, where Esau, his brother dwelt.

Jacob sent messengers to Esau that he had come with his wives, his sons, his servants, his oxen, his sheep, his camels and all that he possessed, and prayed that he might find favor in his eyes. The messengers returned to Jacob saying, "We went to your brother Esau and he is coming to meet you with four hundred men." Then Jacob was greatly

afraid. He divided the people that were with him into two bands and said, "If Esau come to one company and destroy it, the other company shall escape." Jacob prayed, "O, God, thou said'st to me 'Return to thy country and to thy people', and I have passed over the Jordan and have become two bands. I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies which thou hast showed me, but deliver me, I pray Thee, from the hand of my brother Esau, lest he will come and kill me, and the mother with the children." Jacob sent gifts to Esau and sent his wives and his sons to meet Esau, leaving himself alone. A man came and wrestled with him until daybreak and Jacob's hip was injured. But the man could not overcome Jacob and, when daylight came, he begged Jacob to let him go. But Jacob answered, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." The man said, "Your name shall be no more Jacob, but Israel, for as a prince you have power with God and with men and you have conquered." Jacob lifted up his eyes and saw Esau coming and with him four hundred men. Esau ran to meet him and embraced him. Esau saw the women and children and said, "Who are those with you?" Jacob an-

swered, "The children which God has graciously given to me." Esau asked Jacob why he had sent gifts to him, and Jacob said he wished to please his brother.

Esau said he had enough, but Jacob urged him to take the gifts, with his blessing, and he did.

Esau returned that day and Jacob journeyed on his way, built him a house and made booths for his cattle, so the place is called Succoth.

Joseph Sold by His Brethren

JOSEPH, the son of Jacob and Rachel, was very much beloved by his father. Jacob loved Joseph more than all his brothers, because he was the son of his old age. He made him a coat of many colors, with long sleeves. Joseph was seventeen years old. He tended sheep with his brothers and brought his father evil reports of his brothers.

When the brothers saw that their father loved Joseph more than all of them, they hated Joseph.

Joseph dreamed a dream and he told it to his brothers and they hated him more. He told them that he had dreamed that they were binding sheaves of wheat in the field, and lo! his sheaf stood upright, and their sheaves stood around it and bowed to it. His brothers said, "Will you indeed reign over us?" They hated him for his dreams and for his words.

Joseph dreamed another dream and told it to his brothers. "Behold, I have dreamed that the sun, the moon and the stars bowed down to me." His father scolded him and said, "Shall I, your mother and your brothers indeed come and bow

down to you?" His brothers then went to feed the flocks.

Israel called Joseph and told him to go to his brothers and see if all was well with them. When his brothers saw him coming, they plotted against him and decided to kill him. They said one to another, "Behold the dreamer cometh. Let us slay him and throw him into some pit and we shall see what will become of his dreams." Reuben, the eldest brother, heard it and said, "Let us not kill him. Cast him into this pit in the wilderness, but do not lay your hands upon him." They stripped Joseph of his coat of many colors, that was on him. They took him and cast him into the pit. There was no water in the pit. Then they sat down to eat bread and behold a company of Ishmaelites came from Gilead with their camels, bearing spices and balm and myrrh, going to carry it down to Egypt. Judah, one of the brothers said, "What profit is it if we slay our brother? Let us not injure him; let us sell him to the Ishmaelites." And the brothers were content. They lifted Joseph out of the pit and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver, and so Joseph was brought to Egypt.

The brothers took Joseph's coat and killed a young goat, dipped the coat into the blood and brought the coat to their father saying, "This have we found; do you know if it is your son's coat?"

Jacob knew it and cried, "It is my son's coat; an evil beast has devoured him." And Jacob tore his clothes, and mourned for his son many days. His sons and daughters tried to comfort him but he refused to be comforted.

The Ishmaelites sold Joseph to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh and captain of the guard.

Joseph Interprets Pharaoh's Dreams

THE Lord was with Joseph and made him prosper in the house of Potiphar, the Egyptian, who had bought him.

Potiphar made Joseph overseer in his house and all that he had he placed in his keeping. The Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake, and the blessing of God was upon all that was in the house and in the field.

Potiphar left all that he had in Joseph's hands, and he knew not what he had—save the bread that he ate.

And the wife of Potiphar, Joseph's master, found fault with Joseph and quarreled with him, and she made a false accusation against him to her husband and he put Joseph in prison with the king's prisoners. But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and the keeper of the prison became Joseph's friend and placed all of the prisoners in Joseph's keeping.

The butler of the king of Egypt and his baker had offended their lord, the king of Egypt. Pharaoh was angry with them and placed them in the prison in which Joseph was kept.

The butler and the baker each had a dream one night, and when Joseph came to them in the morning they were both sad, and he asked them why they looked so sadly. And they said to him, "We have dreamed a dream and there is no interpreter of it." And Joseph said, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell me them, I pray you."

The chief butler said, "I dreamed a dream and behold a vine was before me. In the vine there were three branches, and it was as though it budded, and the blossoms shot forth and from the clusters came ripe grapes. Pharaoh's cup was in my hand and I took the grapes and pressed them into Pharaoh's cup and I gave the cup into Pharaoh's hand. '

Joseph said to the butler, "This is the interpretation of your dream. The three branches are three days. In three days Pharaoh will restore you to your place, and you will hand the cup to him as you did when you were his butler.

"Think of me when all is well with you and show kindness to me, I pray you, and speak of me to Pharaoh and take me out of this prison, for I have done nothing, that they should put me into the dungeon."

When the chief baker saw that the interpretation of the dream was good, he said to Joseph, "I also had a dream, and in it I had three white baskets on my head. In the uppermost basket there were many kinds of cake for Pharaoh, but the birds ate them out of the basket on my head."

Joseph answered and said, "The three baskets are three days. Within three days Pharaoh will cut off your head and hang you on a tree, and the birds shall eat your flesh."

And it came to pass the third day, that which was Pharaoh's birthday, that he made a feast for all his servants. And he restored the chief butler to his office and hanged the chief baker, as Joseph had interpreted.

Yet the chief butler did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.

Joseph Honored by Pharaoh

AT THE end of two years, Pharaoh dreamed and behold he stood by the river. From the river came seven fat cows and seven lean cows and the lean cows ate the fat cows. Then Pharaoh awoke.

He slept again and dreamed that seven ears of corn, full and good, grew upon one stalk and upon another stalk were thin ears of corn, blasted by the east wind. The seven thin ears devoured the seven full ears. Then Pharaoh awoke and knew that it was a dream.

In the morning Pharaoh sent for all the magicians and all the wise men of the court and told them his dream, for he was worried. But there was no one that could interpret the dream. Then the chief butler spoke up saying: "I remember my faults this day. Pharaoh was angry with his servants and put me and the chief baker in prison. We dreamed a dream one night, he and I, and we told the dreams to a young man, a Hebrew servant to the captain of the guard, who was also in prison, and he interpreted our dreams and they came true, exactly as he inter-

preted them." Then Pharaoh sent for Joseph and said to him, "I have dreamed a dream and no one can interpret it. I have heard that you can understand a dream and interpret it." Joseph answered Pharaoh saying, "It is not I, but God, that shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace." Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "In my dream I stood upon the bank of a river and there came up out of the river seven fat cows and they fed in a meadow. Then seven lean cows came up out of the river and were thinner than any I have seen in all the land of Egypt. They ate up the seven fat cows, but they were just as thin as in the beginning. So I awoke. Then I dreamed again and in my dream saw seven ears of corn on one stalk, full and good. Seven ears, withered, thin and blasted by the east wind grew up after them. The thin ears devoured the seven good ears; and I told this to the magicians but not one of them could interpret the dream for me." Joseph then answered Pharaoh saying, "The dream is one. God has showed Pharaoh what He is about to do. The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good ears of corn are seven years. The seven lean cows are seven years, and the seven empty ears of

corn blasted by the east wind shall be seven years of famine. There will be seven years of plenty throughout the land of Egypt. There shall come after them seven years of famine and the years of plenty will be forgotten in the land of Egypt, and famine will use up all the food in the land and there will be much suffering. The dream came twice to Pharaoh so that Pharaoh would not forget it, for God will soon make it come true. Let Pharaoh select a man who is wise. Also let him appoint seven overseers who will collect one-fifth of all that is raised in Egypt during the seven years of plenty, and store this away for the years of famine. Then the land will not be destroyed."

Pharaoh and all his people were pleased with what Joseph had said, and Pharaoh said, "Can we find such a man, one in whom there is the spirit of God? It is Joseph, who has been blessed by God and who is wise and good." So Pharaoh took off his ring and placed it upon Joseph's hand, and dressed him in fine clothes and put a gold chain around his neck, saying to him, "Joseph, you will rule over my house and over all my people, only in the throne will I be greater than you. You will ride in the

second chariot and people will bow before you and will obey you."

Joseph was thirty years old when Pharaoh made him ruler over Egypt, and during the years of plenty he gathered together large quantities of food and saved it for the years of famine. He had stored in each city the grain that was raised in the fields around the city, and so much was put away that no one could count it. There was as much corn as the sands of the sea, which cannot be numbered. Then the seven years of plenty were ended and the seven years of famine began to come. In all the lands around Egypt there were no crops, but in Egypt there was bread. When the bread was gone, the people cried to Pharaoh for more. But Pharaoh sent them all to Joseph and ordered them to do as he commanded. Joseph opened the store-houses and sold grain to the Egyptians, and from all countries people came to Egypt to buy corn, for there was famine in every land.

Moses, The Deliverer

THE years passed and Joseph and his family died, but there were many Israelites in Egypt. The land was filled with them. There was a new king in Egypt who did not know how wisely Joseph had ruled. He called his people together and said to them, "The children of Israel are more and mightier than we. Let us deal wisely with them or they will multiply and join our enemies and fight against us, so let us get them out of the land."

So the Egyptians placed task masters over them and put heavy burdens upon them. The Israelites built treasure cities for Pharaoh, called Pithom and Raamses. But the more the Egyptians afflicted them, the more they grew. Then Pharaoh ordered every male child that was born to the Israelites to be cast into the river.

A man of the tribe of Levi married a daughter of the same tribe and they had a son. He was a beautiful child, and his mother hid him for three months. Then she could no longer hide him. She took a basket made of reeds, covered it with tar and mortar,

JOSEPH INTERPRETS DREAMS

JOSEPH MADE GOVERNOR OF EGYPT

put the child in it and laid it in the tall grasses by the bank of the river. His sister Miriam hid in the

THE FINDING OF MOSES BY PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER

bushes near by to see what would happen to him. The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe in the river, and when she saw the basket in the reeds, she sent her maid for it. When she opened the basket the baby was crying and she felt sorry for him and said, "This is one of the Hebrew children." Then Miriam, the baby's sister, came to Pharaoh's daughter and asked if she should call one of the Hebrew women to be a nurse for the child. Pharaoh's daughter said, "Go." So she went and called the child's mother. The child grew up, and his mother took him to Pharaoh's daughter and be became her son. She called him Moses, because she drew him out of the water.

One day when Moses was grown, he went to visit his people and saw their burdens. An Egyptian was beating one of the Hebrews, and Moses killed him and hid his body in the sand. The next day he saw two of the Hebrews quarreling, and when he spoke to them, one of them said to him, "Who made you a judge and a prince over us? Do you intend to kill me as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?"

When Pharaoh heard that Moses had slain an

Egyptian, he tried to kill him, but Moses fled from Egypt and lived in the land of Midian.

One day an angel of the Lord appeared to him, in a burning bush. The Lord called to Moses, out of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses," and Moses answered, "Here am I." And the voice said, "Do not come any nearer. Take off your shoes, for the ground upon which you stand is holy ground. I am the Lord your God, the God of Abraham, of Isaac and of Jacob. I have seen the afflictions of your people, who are in Egypt and have heard their cry. I have come to bring them out of the land of Egypt into a good land, a land that is flowing with milk and honey. Come. I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people the children of Israel, out of Egypt." And Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" And God said, "Go, I will be with you."

Moses called his brother Aaron and they gathered all the elders together of the children of Israel. When they heard that God had seen how cruel the Egyptians were to them and would rescue them, they bowed their heads and worshipped Him.

Moses Leads Israel Out of Egypt

MOSES and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said to him, "The Lord, God of Israel bids you let his people go, that they may hold a feast to honor him in the wilderness." Pharaoh answered, "Who is this Lord, that I should obey his voice and let Israel go? I know not the Lord, neither will I let Israel go." Pharaoh then ordered heavier burdens laid upon the Israelites.

Then Moses said to Pharaoh, "If you do not let my people go, the Lord will send plagues and pestilence to Egypt. But Pharaoh's heart was hardened and he would not free the Israelites from their bondage.

God turned all the rivers and water in Egypt to blood. Then he sent a swarm of flies that covered the land and the people and the cattle; then frogs, then a pest that killed all of the cattle of the Egyptians, but not one of the cattle of the Israelites died. Still Pharaoh would not let them go. Then the Lord sent hail and lightning and thunder such as there had not been since Egypt was a nation, and every tree was broken down and every herb of the

field. Only where the children of Israel lived, there was no hail.

Then Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron and said to them. "I have sinned. The Lord is righteous. I and my people are wicked. Let there be no more thunder and hail and I will let you go." So Moses lifted his hands to the Lord and the hail and the rain ceased. When Pharaoh saw that the rain and the hail had ceased, he sinned again and would not let the Israelites go. So God sent locusts to cover the whole earth, so that the land was darkened, and they ate every herb and the fruit of the trees that the hail had left, and there remained not a green thing through all the land of Egypt.

Pharaoh again said that he would relent if the locusts were driven away, and God sent an east wind that took away the locusts; but Pharaoh did not keep his promise and refused to free the Israelites, whom he held as slaves. Then God made darkness cover all the land of Egypt, excepting in the houses of the Israelites where there was light. Pharaoh still held the Israelites captive, so God told Moses that he would bring one more plague upon Egypt, after which Pharaoh would let the people go.

Moses had become a great leader in Egypt to Pharaoh's servants and to the people. He called the Israelites together and said to them, "The Lord has spoken. About midnight he will go into Egypt and all the first-born will die—from the first-born of Pharaoh upon the throne, to the first-born of the maid servants, and the first-born of all beasts—but to the children of Israel there will come no harm." Moses commanded the children of Israel to take the blood of a lamb and sprinkle it upon the door-posts of their houses, so that it would be a sign upon the houses and the Lord would pass over and not slay the first-born of the Hebrew children.

The Lord also told them to prepare for a journey and not to eat leavened bread for seven days, as a sacrifice to Him. And it came to pass that at midnight the Lord smote all the first-born in Egypt; and Pharaoh rose up in the night and all his servants and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house in which there was not one dead.

Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron and said, "Rise up and leave, you and all the children of Israel, also take your flocks and herds and be gone, and bless me also."

So Moses led his people out of Egypt and they numbered about six hundred thousand. God went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them the way, and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light.

After the Israelites had gone from Egypt, Pharaoh and his captains and his army pursued them, for they wished to make them slaves again. The Israelites were afraid, but Moses said to them, "Fear not, the Lord will fight for you." The Red Sea, beside which the Israelites were camping, became dry land and the children of Israel walked across this land to the other side of the sea. The Egyptians followed them, with all their horses and chariots, and when they were on the land in the midst of the sea, the waters returned and drowned all of the Egyptians. In this way God saved Israel, and the people believed the Lord and his servant Moses.

The Law Given on Sinai

IN THE third month after the children of Israel had gone out of Egypt, God called to Moses to come up to the mountain of Sinai and said to him, "Tell the children of Israel that they have seen what I have done to the Egyptians and how I saved them. If they will obey me, they will be a treasure to me above all people. They will be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." The people answered and said, "All that the Lord has asked of us, we will do."

Moses then brought the people to the foot of the mountain and a trumpet sounded long and loud and all the people trembled. God again called Moses up to the mountain and spoke these words:

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

I am the Lord, thy God, who brought thee out of the land of Egypt and out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Thou shalt not make to thyself any graven image, nor any likeness of anything that is

in heaven above, on the earth beneath or in the waters that are under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down before them, nor serve them, for I, the Lord, thy God, am a jealous God, visiting the sins of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generation, but showing mercy to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless, who taketh His name in vain.

Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor and do all thy work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord, thy God. On it thou shalt not do any work, neither thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy maid servant, nor thy man servant, nor thy cattle, nor the guest who is in your house, for in six days the Lord made the heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

Honor thy father and thy mother that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord, thy God, giveth thee.
Thou shalt not kill.
Thou shalt not commit adultery.
Thou shalt not steal.
Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his man servant, nor his maid servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor's.

These laws were written upon tablets of stone, and after forty days and forty nights Moses came down from the mountain and gave them to the people.

The Wilderness Tabernacle

THE Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the children of Israel, let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in. Take an offering from every man that brings it willingly. Take gold and silver and brass, and blue and purple and scarlet, fine linen and goats' hair, rams' skins dyed red and badgers' skins, fine wood, oil for light and sweet incense. Onyx stones and precious stones for the breast-plate. I will give you a plan for a tabernacle and a pattern for the tools, with which to make it. Make an ark of wood, a crown of gold around it. Place a ring of gold at each of its corners and through them pass bars of wood, overlaid with gold. Make also a mercy seat of pure gold with an angel of gold at each end; make a table of wood, overlaid with gold spoons and dishes of gold and a candle-stick with seven branches. Make the tabernacle of curtains of linen and of goats' hair, dyed blue and purple and scarlet, of boards of rare wood. A veil shall divide the holy place and the most holy. The ark and the mercy seat shall be in the most holy place. The covering

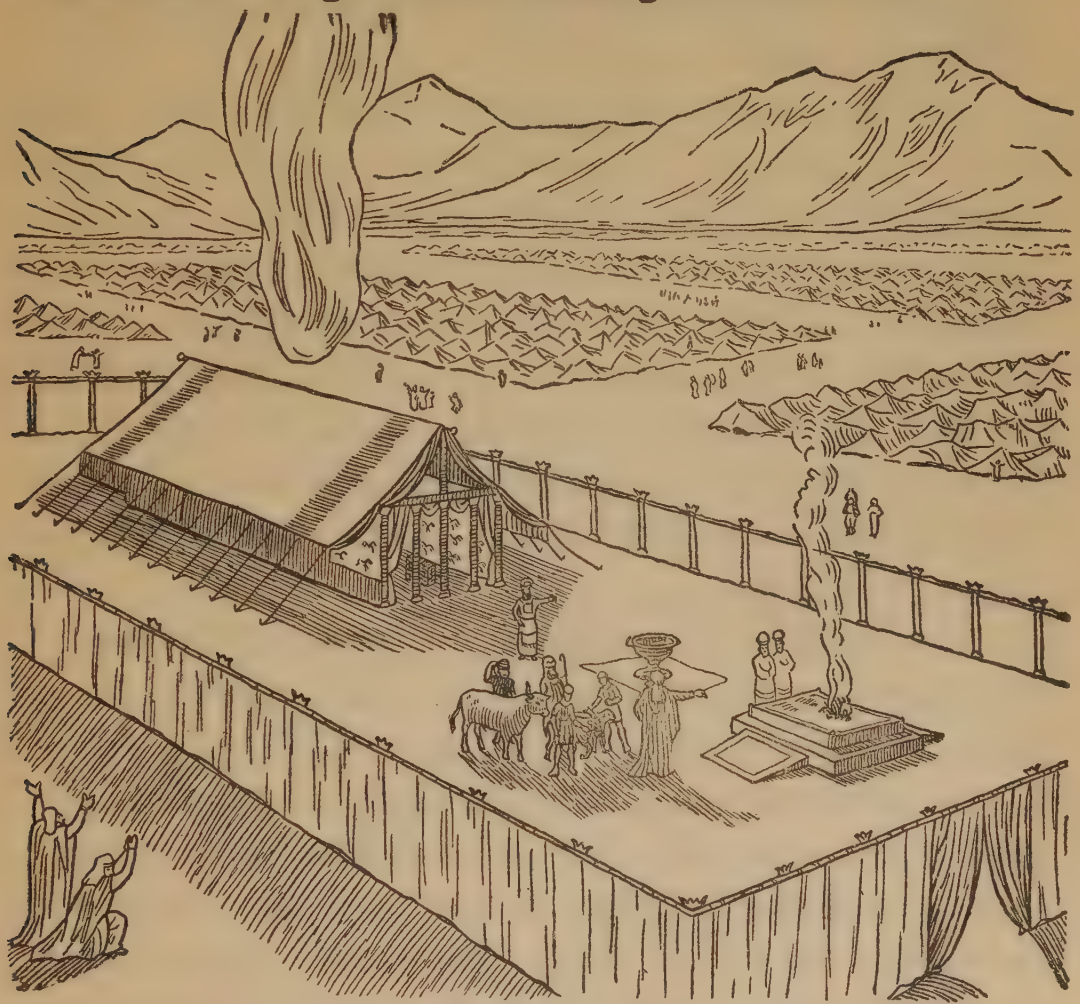
for the door of the tabernacle shall be of fine linen, embroidered with blue and purple and scarlet. Make an altar of brass, and all the dishes that are needed for the altar of brass, and from hooks of brass hang curtains around the court of the tabernacle. The pillars in the court of the tabernacle shall be of wood, trimmed with silver. Command the children of Israel to bring pure olive oil for the lamp which shall burn always. Aaron thy brother and his sons, shall be the priests and they shall wear holy garments of beauty and minister to me. I will bless the tabernacle of the altar. I will dwell among the children of Israel and be their God. They shall know that I am the Lord their God, who brought them out of the land of Egypt and out of slavery."

In the ark were placed the two tablets of stone upon which God had carved the ten commandments.

When the tabernacle was finished and Moses went into it, a cloud came down in front of the door and from the cloud the Lord spoke, "I am the Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long suffering and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping

mercy for thousands, forgiving sin, but never clearing the guilty."

Moses and Aaron and Aaron's sons were given charge of the tabernacle for the children of Israel who had brought their offerings to the Lord.



THE TABERNACLE IN THE WILDERNESS

The Angel and The Wicked Prophet

THE children of Israel traveled again until they came to the plains of Moab, on this side of the river Jordan, near Jericho.

Balak was the king of the Moabites, and when he saw the hosts of the children of Israel, he was afraid, because he thought they had come to make war upon him. Balak sent messengers to Balaam, who pretended to have power to curse people—and promised him many gifts if he would ask God to destroy the children of Israel. Balaam had never been harmed by the Israelites, but he wanted riches and power, so he saddled his ass and went with the men.

God was angry and sent an angel with a sword to stand in the road that Balaam was to pass. Balaam could not see the angel—but the ass saw him. The ass turned aside and went into the field, and Balaam struck the ass and tried to turn her back to the road. In the vineyards through which they rode, they came to a path on each side of which there was a wall, and the angel of the Lord again

stood before them. The ass pressed close to the wall and crushed Balaam's foot, and Balaam again struck her. The angel of the Lord went further and stood in a narrow place, where there was no space to turn either to the right or to the left. When the ass saw the angel of the Lord, she fell down under Balaam. Balaam was very angry and beat the ass with a stick.

The Lord made the ass speak and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you that you should beat me three times?" Balaam said to the ass, "You have disobeyed me and I wish there was a sword in my hand, for now I would kill you." Then the ass said to him, "Am I not your ass, upon which you have ridden every day and have I ever acted so before?" Balaam replied that she had not.

Then the Lord made Balaam see the angel standing in the way, with a drawn sword in his hand, and he bowed his head and fell on his face. The angel of the Lord said to Balaam, "Why have you struck your ass three times? I went out to slay you, because you are wicked and the ass saw me and turned you away from me three times. If she had not turned from me, you would surely have been slain,

and she would have been saved." Balaam said to the angel, "I have sinned. I did not know that you stood in the way and if I have displeased you, I will go back again." The angel of the Lord said to Balaam, "Go with the men, but speak only the words that I tell you."

So Balaam went with the messengers back to Balak and the king gave him oxen and sheep and took him up to a high place where he could see all of the children of Israel. Balaam told Balak to build altars and to burn sacrifices to the Lord on them—hoping that the Lord would destroy the children of Israel—but the Lord was very angry and told Balaam that he had blessed the children of Israel.

When Balaam found that the Lord would not curse the children of Israel, he told the Moabites to invite them to their feasts and to teach them to sin. Many of the children of Israel came and feasted and bowed down to the idols of the Moabites and God sent a pestilence and many thousands died.

For forty years, the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness and then they went to war against the Moabites and Midianites and gained a great victory over them.

THE ASS REBUKES THE WICKED PROPHET

MOSES VIEWS THE PROMISED LAND FROM PISGAH

Moses' Last Message to Israel

WHEN Moses was one hundred and twenty years old, he called the children of Israel together and told them that his end was near. He made Joshua their leader and blessed him, telling him to be brave and strong and to bring the people to the land which God had promised to their fathers. Moses reminded the children of Israel of all that God had done for them. In His mighty power He brought them out of bondage in the land of Egypt, not because they were larger in number, for they were fewer than other nations, but because they were holy and God loved them. "Keep God's commandments," Moses said to them. "Remember that the Lord brought you to a good land, a land of brooks, of water, of fountains, of valleys and hills. A land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees, a land flowing with milk and honey. Hear, O Israel, the Lord your God, is one Lord. Love Him with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your might. Teach the words of God to your children, talk of them when you are in your houses and when you

walk by the way, when you lie down and when you rise up in the morning—write them upon the door posts of your houses and on your gates. God promised Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to give you great cities. When you are in these great cities, which you did not build, when your houses are filled with good things which the Lord gave you, with vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant, and wells that you did not dig, beware that you do not forget the Lord, and do not go after other gods of the people who are around you. Keep the commandments, do what is right and good and the Lord will bless you and you will live long upon the earth which He gave you. When you are in trouble, if you will seek the Lord, you will find him, for He is a merciful God, who will not forsake you if you are obedient and keep His commandments."

Likewise Moses told the children of Israel that they were to pass over the Jordan river and that the Lord would drive out the wicked nations who were in the land of Canaan, the land which He gave to the children of Israel.

Then Moses blessed the children of Israel and went up from the plains of Moab to the mountain

of Nebo. And the Lord showed Moses the land of Canaan which had been promised to the children of Israel, but which Moses was not to enter. So Moses, the servant of the Lord, died in the land of Moab, near Bethpeor, but no one knows where the Lord buried him, not even to this day.

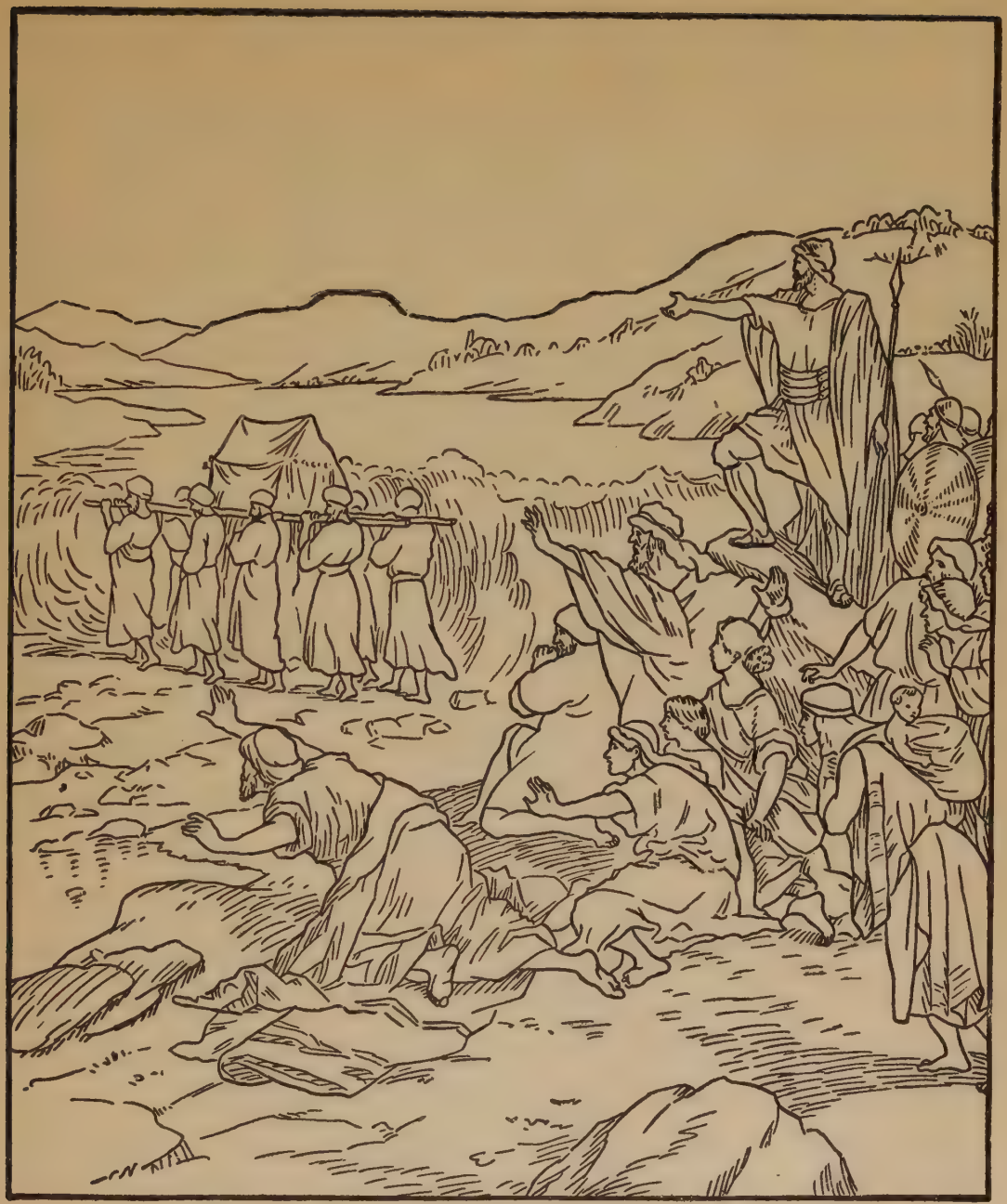
The Death of Moses

By Cecil Alexander

By Nebo's lonely mountain
On this side Jordan's wave,
In a vale in the land of Moab
There lies a lonely grave.
But no man built that sepulcher
And no man saw it e'er
For the angels of God, upturned the sod
And laid the dead man there.
This was the bravest warrior
That ever buckled sword.
This the most gifted poet
That ever breathed a word.
And never earth's philosopher
Traced with his golden pen
On the deathless page, truths half so sage
As he wrote down, for men.

Joshua, The Heroic Leader

FTER the death of Moses, the servant of the Lord, it came to pass that the Lord spoke to Joshua, the son of Nun, saying: "Moses my servant is dead, now therefore arise, go over the Jordan, you and all the people, to the land which I will give to them and to their children. Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that I have given to you, as I promised to Moses. From this wilderness to the great river Euphrates, and as far as the great sea to the west, where the sun sets, shall be your coast. There shall not be any man greater than you all the days of your life. I was with Moses, so also I will be with you. I will not fail you, nor forsake you. Be strong and of good courage, for with the people you will divide the land which I promised their fathers to give to them. Only be you strong and very courageous, that you may keep all the laws which Moses, my servant, commanded you; turn not from it, neither to the right hand nor to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. Preach the word of your God and think of all that you have been



THE SACRED ARK CARRIED ACROSS JORDAN

commanded to do, day and night, so that you may do all that is just and good. Then you will be prosperous and have success. Be not afraid and do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God, is with you wherever you go."

Then Joshua called the officers of the people to him, saying: "Pass through the camp and command the people, saying 'Prepare your food; for within three days you will pass over the Jordan river, to go in and take the land which the Lord your God gives you. Remember all that Moses, the servant of the Lord, commanded you when he said, 'The Lord, your God, has given you rest and has given you this land. Your wives, your little ones, and your cattle shall remain on the land which Moses gave you, on this side of the Jordan; but you shall pass, with your swords, all you mighty men, who are brave, and take the land for them, which is on the other side of the Jordan." He continued thus, "When you have taken the land from the wicked nations, then return to your families and take them and all that you own to the new land, which is to be yours and your children's."

The officers answered Joshua, saying, "All that

you have commanded us to do, we will do, and wherever you send us, we will go. As we listened to Moses and obeyed him in all things, so will we listen to you and obey you, and the Lord your God be with you, as he was with Moses. Whoever rebels against your orders, and will not listen to you and do all that is commanded him to do, shall be punished. Only be strong and of good courage."

JOSHUA CALLED AS LEADER

Rahab, The Friend of Israel

JOSHUA sent two spies over the Jordan to look at the land before the children of Israel went into it. They came to a house, in which a woman named Rahab lived, and stopped there.

Someone told the king of Jericho that two men came from the children of Israel, in the night, to look over the country. So the king of Jericho sent to Rahab and told her to bring out the men who were in her house, for they had come to spy on the country. But the woman hid the men on the roof of her house, which was flat, and covered them with stalks of flax. She told the king's messengers that the men had gone and if they would follow quickly, they would overtake them. So the king's messengers hurried away, and the woman went up to the roof, where the men were hiding and said to them, "I know that the Lord has given you this land and all the people are afraid of the children of Israel. We have heard how the Lord dried up the Red Sea for you, when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the enemies of the children of Israel. We

know the Lord was on your side and that the nations that fought against you were completely destroyed. We know that the Lord your God is in the heavens above, and in the earth beneath, and we have lost courage and are afraid. Now, therefore, I pray you, promise me, by the Lord, since I have been kind to you, that you will also be kind to me and to my family and protect my father's house."

The men said that they would allow no harm to come to her or to her family if she would tell no one they had been there. They gave her some scarlet thread to place in the window to mark the house, so the children of Israel could tell which house was hers.

Then Rahab let them down by a rope, for her house was upon the town wall, and she told them to go to the mountains and hide there for three days, until the king's servants had returned, after which it would be safe for them to go their way.

The men thanked her and told her to bring all her family into the house, and that no harm would come to them. They then went away and Rahab tied the scarlet cord in the window.

Returning to Joshua, the men told all that they had seen and all that had happened to them.

Jericho's Walls Fall Down

JOSHUA rose up early in the morning and gathered all the people together and led them to the Jordan. They stayed there three days and then the priests took the ark in which were the ten commandments, and as they stepped into the river, the waters parted and the people passed to the other side. When all the children of Israel had passed over the Jordan, the waters came together again, and Joshua spoke to the people saying, "Build here an altar to the Lord, and let it be a sign for all time to come, that at this place the waters of the Jordan were cut off, so that the children of Israel could pass over." They built the altar of stones and it is said that the altar stands to this day.

When Joshua came to Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and behold, there stood a man with a sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and said, "Are you for us, or for our enemies?" The man answered, "As captain of the army of the Lord have I come." Joshua fell on his face to the earth, worshipped and said, "What have you to say to your

servant?" The captain of the Lord's army said, "Take off your shoes, for the ground on which you stand is holy." Then Joshua knew that the man was an angel of the Lord.

The people of Jericho had closed the gates of the city, so that the children of Israel could not come in. The Lord told Joshua that the soldiers in Israel should march around the city of Jericho with the priests, who were to carry the ark, and that the priests should blow trumpets made of ram's horns.

Joshua repeated all that the Lord had said and told the people that they were not to shout, nor make any noise, until they were ordered to shout. So the ark of the Lord was carried around the city, and again on the next day, and for six days. On the seventh day, when the priests blew the trumpets, the people were commanded to shout, and they gave a great shout. The wall fell down and the children of Israel marched into the city. They destroyed all who were in the city. Only the silver, gold, brass and iron they saved for the treasury of the Lord.

Joshua sent the two spies to the house of the woman who had been kind to them, and they

brought her out, and her father, mother and their relatives and taking them to the camp of Israel, they protected and were very good to them.

The Sin of Achan

JOSHUA sent men, from Jericho to Ai, which is beside Bethaven, on the east side of Bethel, to go up and view the country. These men returned to Joshua and said to him, "Let not all the people go up, but let about two or three thousand men go up and take the city of Ai, for there are but few people there." So Joshua, sent about three thousand men, but when the soldiers of Ai came out to fight, the Israelites fled from them. The men of Ai chased them and killed about thirty-six of them. All of the children of Israel became afraid. Joshua was in great distress and he and the elders in Israel bowed their heads and prayed until evening.

"Why," he cried to the Lord, "have you brought us over the Jordan, for we will be destroyed by our enemies?" "The Canaanites and all the people of the land shall hear that Israel has fled from its enemies and Israel will perish." The Lord said to Joshua, "Israel has sinned. There are some among them that have taken some of the gold in the city of Jericho and have put it among their own things.

Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs and fled. Neither will I be with you any more, unless you punish the one who stole the gold." The Lord told Joshua that it was Achan, the son of Carmi, who had hidden the gold, and Joshua sent to Achan.

Joshua said to him, "Confess and tell me what you have done." Achan answered Joshua and said, "Indeed I have sinned against the Lord of Israel. When I saw among the ruins of Jericho a beautiful garment and pieces of silver and gold, I took them and hid them in the earth under my tent."

Joshua sent messengers to Achan's tent and they found the hidden treasures and brought them to Joshua, placing them where all the people could see them. Joshua, and all the children of Israel took Achan and all he owned, and the gold and silver that he had stolen, to the valley of Achor. There Achan was stoned to death and afterward burned with fire. They raised over him a great heap of stones, so that every one would know where Achan had been punished. Then the Lord was no longer angry with the children of Israel.

Gibeonites Lie to Joshua

ALL the kings who were on this side of the Jordan, in the hills and in the valleys, and on the coasts of the sea, heard how Joshua and the children of Israel had captured Jericho. They banded together to fight Joshua and the Israelites.

The people of a city called Gibeon, tried to deceive Joshua. They sent messengers to him, dressed in clothes that were covered with dust and the food that they carried was dry and mouldy. They told Joshua that they had come from a far country and wished to make peace with the children of Israel. They said to Joshua, and to the children of Israel, "From a very far country we have come, for we have heard of the name of the Lord, your God, and all that He did in Egypt. We have heard what He did to your enemies and we have come to dwell with you and be your servants. The bread which we took hot, from our houses, for the journey, is now dry and mouldy. These bottles of wine, which were made of new skins and were filled, are torn. Our garments and our shoes have become old, because

of the very long journey." Joshua and the Israelites made peace with them without asking counsel of the Lord.

At the end of three days, they heard that the Gibeonites had not come from a long distance, but that they were their neighbors. The children of Israel did not slay them, because they had promised to keep peace with them. Joshua called the Gibeonites to him and spoke to them saying, "Why have you deceived us? You live near us and you told us that you had come from a long distance. We will not slay you, for we took an oath that we would let you live; but you will be servants and cut wood and draw water for the house of my God." They answered Joshua and said, "Because it was told to us how the Lord your God commanded Moses to give you all the land, and to destroy all the inhabitants of the land, we were afraid of our lives, and so we did this. Now we are in your power. Do what seems good and right to you."

And Joshua made them, that day, hewers of wood and drawers of water for the congregation and for the altar of the Lord.

THE SPIES BRING GRAPES FROM CANAAN

JERICHO'S WALLS FALL DOWN

When The Sun Stood Still

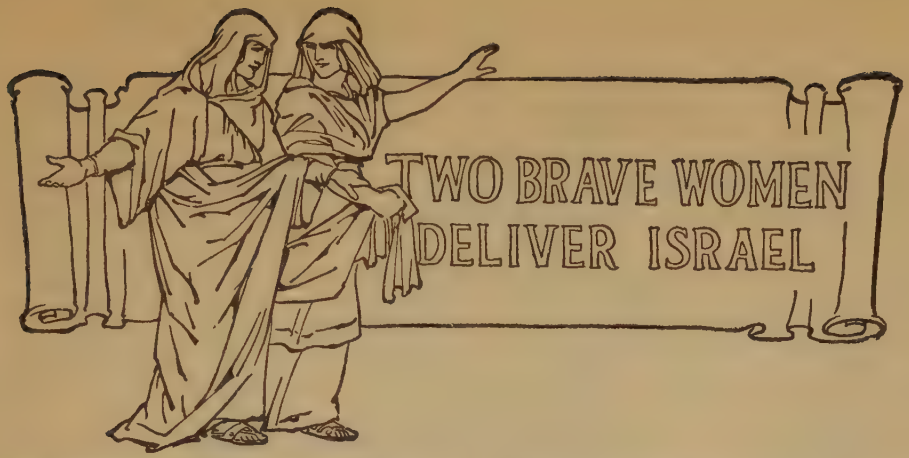
THE king of a city named Jerusalem, heard how Joshua had taken Ai, and destroyed it, as he had done to Jericho, and how the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel and were among them. So the king of Jerusalem sent to the kings of the nations around him and asked them to help him destroy Gibeon, because it had made peace with the children of Israel.

Five kings banded together and went up with their armies and made war upon Gibeon. The men of Gibeon sent to Joshua saying, "Come to us quickly and help us, save us; for all the kings of the Amorites, that dwell in the mountains are gathered together against us." Joshua went up, he and all his soldiers, and all the mighty men of Israel.

The Lord said to Joshua, "Fear them not, for I will help you." Joshua marched upon the kings and their armies and there was a great slaughter at Gibeon. The kings and their armies fled Israel, but many more of them were killed by hail stones, which the Lord cast down upon them.

It was late in the day. The sun was going down and soon there would be darkness. Joshua feared his enemies would escape during the night, so he prayed to the Lord, before the children of Israel, that the sun would stand still, so that there would be light until the enemies were captured. So the sun stood still in the heavens for another whole day. There had never been a day like it before, nor has there been one since.

The Lord heard the voice of Joshua, for the Lord fought for Israel. Joshua and his army captured the kings and their armies and destroyed them completely. Joshua and the brave men of Israel conquered many nations, all the country of the hills and of the south, of the valley, of the springs, and all their kings. They left none remaining of the wicked people, as the Lord had commanded.



THE children of Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua and all the days of the elders that outlived Joshua and had seen all the great works of the Lord, all that He did for Israel.

Another generation arose after them, which knew not the Lord and they did evil things, and served idols. The anger of the Lord was great against Israel, and He delivered them into the hands of their enemies.

But the Lord is a merciful God and he wished to help Israel, so he sent judges to advise them and to save them. But they would not listen to the judges. The Lord was very angry with them and delivered them into the hands of the king of Mesopotamia, where they were in bondage for eight years. They prayed to the Lord and he heard their prayers and

DEBORAH CALLS BARAK TO LEAD ISRAEL AGAINST SISERA

helped them to escape. Then they did evil things again, and again they were captured and this happened many times.

Sisera, the captain of the army of Canaan, was very cruel. For twenty years, the children of Israel were his slaves. God then gave great wisdom to Deborah and she became a judge in Israel. She lived under a palm tree in the mountain of Ephraim and the children of Israel came to her for judgment.

Deborah called Barak, the son of Abinoam and said to him, "The Lord of Israel has commanded, saying 'Take with you ten thousand men and go toward mount Tabor. I will draw Sisera to you with his chariots and his army, and I will deliver them into your hands.' " Barak said to her, "If you will go with me, I will go, but if you will not go with me, then I will not go." Deborah said, "I will surely go with you, but you will receive no honor for the victory over Sisera, for the Lord will give Sisera into the hands of a woman." Deborah arose and went with Barak and ten thousand men of Israel to fight against Sisera.

Messengers ran to Sisera and told him Barak and Deborah were coming with an army of Israelites

to overthrow him. Sisera gathered together his chariots of iron and his army and all the people that were with him. The Lord gave strength to the children of Israel and they took the chariots and killed Sisera's soldiers. Sisera jumped down from his chariot and fled away to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber, who had been at peace with the king of Canaan.

Sisera asked Jael to hide him. She covered him with a mantle. Then he said to her, "Give me, I pray you, a little water to drink, for I am thirsty." She opened a bottle of milk and gave him a drink, then covered him. Again he said to her, "Stand in the door of the tent and if anyone comes and asks if I am here, say no. Then while he was covered with the mantle, Jael slew him, for she knew that he was a very wicked man.

Barak pursued Sisera and when he came to the tent, Jael came out to meet him and said to him, "Come, I will show you the man whom you are seeking," and behold, when he came into the tent, Sisera lay dead.

So two women, Deborah and Jael, saved the nation of Israel that day.

Gideon and The Angel

FOR forty years the children of Israel rested and prospered. Then they forgot their Lord and did evil things, so the Lord sent the Midianites to capture them. The Midianites took all the grain that the children of Israel raised and all their cattle, so the children of Israel had no food. They went up to the mountains and made dens and caves, in which to hide from the Midianites, but the Midianites came up with their cattle, and camped in the mountains. There were many Midianites, and more camels than can be counted, and they came to destroy the land.

Israel cried to the Lord and prayed to be saved from the Midianites and the Lord sent a prophet who said to them, "Thus said the Lord God of Israel, 'I brought you up from Egypt, and brought you out of the house of bondage. I delivered you from the Egyptians and from all that oppressed you, and gave you their land. And I said to you, I am the Lord, your God; fear not the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell, but you have not obeyed me.' "

GIDEON AND THE ANGEL

Gideon, the son of Joash, was making flour out of a little wheat that he had in a shed and that he hid from the Midianites. An angel of the Lord came and sat down under an oak tree and watched Gideon pound the wheat. Then the angel said to him, "The Lord is with you, for you are a strong and brave man." Gideon said to him, "If the Lord is with us, why then has so much misery fallen upon us? Where are all the miracles that our fathers told us about? The Lord has forsaken us and delivered us unto the hands of the Midianites." The angel said to him, "You will save Israel from the Midianites. I will send you." And Gideon said to him, "Oh, my lord, with what shall I save Israel? My family is the poorest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house." But the angel said to him, "I will surely be with you and you will slay the Midianites as though they were one man." Then Gideon asked the angel to show him a miracle so that he would know that he was from the Lord.

Gideon brought a young kid and some bread and broth. The angel said to him, "Take the meat and the bread and lay them upon the rock." Gi-

deon did so. Then the angel of the Lord touched the meat and the bread with the end of his staff and fire came from the rock and burned the meat and bread. Then the angel of the Lord went away. Gideon built an altar to the Lord and said, "Show me another miracle. I will put a sheepskin upon the ground, and if there is dew on the sheepskin only, and the earth around it is dry, then I shall know that you will save Israel through me." And it was so. He rose up early in the morning and the sheepskin was so wet that Gideon wrung a bowl full of water out of it. Then Gideon asked the Lord to show him another miracle. "I pray Thee," he said to the Lord, "let the sheepskin be dry, and upon the ground let there be dew." God did so that night, for it was dry upon the sheepskin and there was dew on all the ground.

Gideon Routs The Midianites

GIDEON, and all the people that were with him, rose up early and pitched their tents near the well of Herod, to the south of the Midianites. And the Lord said to Gideon, "The people that are with you are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands. Israel will boast saying, 'my own hand saved me, not the Lord's.' Therefore, proclaim to the people saying, whoever is afraid, let him return home." Twenty-two thousand people returned and there remained ten thousand. Then the Lord said to Gideon, "The people are yet too many; bring them down to the water and I will test them for you there." So Gideon brought the people to the water and the Lord said to Gideon, "Every one that laps up the water with his tongue, as a dog laps, place on one side; and every one that bows down on his knees to drink, place him on the other side." The Lord knew which were the bravest men and he had them lap the water, with their hands. There were three hundred of these men and the Lord said to Gideon, "With these three hundred, I will save you. Let

all the other men go, every one to his home." That same night, the Lord told Gideon to go down to the army of the Midianites and listen to what they were saying. Gideon with his servant, Phurah, went down to where the Midianites were camping and they saw a great multitude of men and camels, as many as the sands by the seaside. They heard one of the men talking about a dream and he said, "Behold, I dreamed a dream, and lo, a piece of barley-bread fell into the tent of a Midianite and the tent fell down." His friend said, "This is the sword of Gideon, a man of Israel, for unto his hand God will deliver Midian and all the army." Gideon worshipped God and returned to the camp of Israel, saying, "Arise, for the Lord has delivered Midian to you."

He divided the three hundred men into three companies and he put a trumpet into the hand of every man, also a pitcher with a lamp in the pitcher. He told the men to watch him, and when they came to the camp of the Midianites, to do as he did. "When I blow a trumpet," he said to them, "Then all of you blow trumpets and shout, 'The sword of the Lord and Gideon.' " So Gideon and the three

hundred men went to the outside of the camp of the Midianites and they blew their trumpets, they broke the pitchers in which the lamps were hidden, and they cried, "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon."

The soldiers of Midian were so surprised and frightened that they fought one another and fled from the Israelites. But Gideon captured and slew all of the soldiers and the two kings of the Midianites. Then the men of Israel said to Gideon, "Rule over us, you and your son, for you have delivered us from our enemies." Gideon answered them saying, "I will not rule over you, neither shall my son rule over you; the Lord shall rule over you."

Jephthah's Daughter

JEPHTHAH was a mighty soldier who lived in the land of Tob. When he was a boy, his brothers were very unkind to him, altho he had done them no harm. So Jephthah left his father's house in Gilead and fled from his brothers, to Tob, where he soon had many friends among whom he became a leader.

In time it came to pass that the children of Ammon made war upon Israel. The children of Israel had no captain and they remembered Jephthah and went to the land of Tob to bring Jephthah to the Israelite camp, as their captain. Jephthah said to the elders who had come to him to lead them in their fight against the Ammonites, "Why do you come to me now, when you are in trouble? Did you not hate me and drive me out of my father's house?" The elders of Israel said to Jephthah, "We have come to you, for we are in danger, and we pray that you will lead us and be the captain over us, and go with us and fight against the children of Ammon." Jephthah said to them, "If you bring me home to fight against the children of Ammon, and the

with the maidens and wept that she was not to be a wife, or a mother.

It became a custom in Israel for the daughters of Israel, every year to mourn for four days, for the daughter of Jephthah.

Jephthah should not have made such a vow. The Lord asked the children of Israel to make sacrifices of animals, not of children. It was the heathen nations that made sacrifices of children to their gods, and this was very wicked and made God angry. Jephthah did not know what would come out of his house to meet him, and so he should not have made such a vow. When he saw that it was the daughter, he should have asked forgiveness of God for making such a terrible promise, and not have sacrificed her. The Lord is pleased only when people are good and kind.

GIDEON LEADS ATTACK ON THE ENEMY

JEPHTHAH'S VOW

Samson the Strong, Israel's Hero

THE children of Israel sinned again and again, the Lord was angered and made them serve the Philistines forty years.

There was a man among them by the name of Manoah, who was a good man but he and his wife had no children, which made them very unhappy. One day the angel of the Lord came to Manoah's wife and said, "You are to have a son, who will serve the Lord and who will deliver Israel from the Philistines. He must not drink wine, nor eat anything that is not clean, and his hair must grow long. No razor shall touch it, for a Nazarite he is to be." The Nazarites were priests and did not drink wine, nor cut their hair.

The woman went to her husband and told him what the angel of God had said to her. Manoah prayed to the Lord and said, "Oh, my Lord, let the man of God that you sent, come again, and teach us what we should do for the child that is to be born." God sent the angel again and told Manoah all that he had said to his wife. Manoah sacrificed a young kid to the Lord, and as the flame

SAMSON SLAYS THE LION

went up toward heaven, from the altar, the angel ascended in the flame. Then Manoah and his wife knew that he was an angel of God and they bowed down and worshipped God.

When the son was born to Manoah and his wife, he was named Samson. The child grew and the Lord blessed him.

Samson went to Timnath and saw a woman there who was the daughter of a Philistine. He came and told his father and his mother and said that he wished her to be his wife. His father and mother asked him, "Is there not a daughter of your people that you will chose for a wife? Why do you go to take a wife from among the heathen Philistines?" But Samson said to his father, "Get her for me, for she pleases me well." Then Samson, his father and mother went to Timnath, and came to the vineyard of Timnath, where a young lion roared at Samson.

The spirit of the Lord made Samson strong, and with nothing in his hand, he killed the lion as easily as he would have killed a young kid; but he did not tell his father or his mother what he had done.

He went on to see the woman and she pleased him very much. After a time, Samson returned for her, and he turned aside to see the body of the lion that he had killed, and behold, there was a swarm of bees, and honey in the body of the dead lion. Samson took some of the honey in his hands and ate it. He took honey from the lion to his father and mother. They ate it, but he did not tell them that he had taken it from the dead lion, which was unclean.

Samson went with his father, to the woman, and made a feast, as the custom of the country was that the bridegroom give the wedding feast. There were thirty young men at the feast, and Samson said to them, "I will now give you a riddle. If you can guess it within seven days, I will give you thirty sheets and thirty garments. If you cannot guess it, then you shall give me thirty sheets and thirty garments."

Continuing he said to them, "Out of the eater came forth meat, and out of the strong, came forth sweetness." They could not guess the riddle, and on the seventh day they said to Samson's wife, "Go to your husband and find out for us what is

the meaning of his riddle. If you do not, we will burn you and your father's house."

Samson's wife wept before him and said, "You do not love me, for you have given a riddle to the children of my people and you have not told it to me?" He said to her, "I have not told it to my father or my mother, and shall I tell it to you?" She wept for seven days, during all of the time of the feast, and on the seventh day Samson told her, and she told the riddle to the children of her people. On the seventh day, as the sun went down, the men of the city said to Samson, "What is sweeter than honey, and what is stronger than a lion?"

Samson knew that his wife had told them. He was angry, and he killed thirty men of the Philistines and gave their garments to the men to whom the answer to the riddle had been told by his wife.

Samson returned to his father's house and his wife remained with the Philistines. After a time, at the harvest time, he went to visit his wife and brought her a young kid, as a present, but her father told him she had been given to his friend.

Samson went out and caught three hundred

foxes and tied fire-brands to their tails. Then he let them go into the standing corn of the Philistines and burnt up the shocks and the vineyards and olive trees. The Philistines said, "Who has done this?" The answer was, "Samson, because his wife was taken from him."

Then the Philistines went up and pitched their camp near Judah, and when the men of Judah asked them why they had come, they said "to bind Samson and to do to him as he did to us." Then the men of Judah bound Samson with new cords, as he said they should and delivered him to the Philistines. But Samson broke the cords and picking up the jaw-bone of an ass, slew a thousand Philistines with it.

It came to pass afterward, that Samson loved a woman by the name of Delilah, and the rulers of the Philistines came to her and said, "We will give you eleven hundred pieces of silver, if you can find what makes Samson's strength so great. We will then bind and torture him." So Delilah said to Samson, "Tell me, I pray you, where is your great strength and what is strong enough to bind you?" Samson said, "Green willow branches will bind

me." And Delilah bound him and the Philistines sprang upon him, but he broke the branches, so they did not know what made him strong. They then bound him with new ropes and he broke the ropes from his arms like a thread.

Then Delilah wept and said to Samson, "How can you say that you love me, when you do not tell me the truth?" Then he told her that his strength was in his hair and if it were cut off he would be weak like any other man. When Samson was sleeping, Delilah called for a man to shave him, and when he awoke his strength was gone.

The Philistines took him and put out his eyes and imprisoned him. While he was in prison his hair began to grow again.

One day the Philistines were in the temple and were sacrificing to their idol Dagon, and they sent for Samson to make sport of him. He asked the boy who led him, because he was blind, to place his hands on the pillars of the great building. The leaders of the Philistines were all there, and on the roof were three thousand men and women who were making sport of Samson. Samson prayed to the Lord and asked for strength and he pressed

against the posts of the building and the roof fell, all the people being killed, all the princes of the Philistines, and Samson with them.

Ruth, The Gleaner

THERE was a famine in Canaan and a certain man of Bethlehem went to the country of Moab to live, with his wife and their two sons. The name of this man was Elimelech and the name of his wife was Naomi, their sons were Mahlon and Chilion. Naomi's husband died and she was left with her two sons. They married Moabite women, the name of one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived in Moab about ten years.

Then Mahlon and Chilion died and Naomi, with her two daughters-in-law, arose to return to the land of Judah, for she had heard that there was plenty of bread in the land. Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each to your mother's house; the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with me and with my sons who are dead. The Lord grant that you may find peace." Then she kissed them and they wept, saying, "We will return with you to your people." Naomi bade them return to Moab, but they wept again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law and returned to Moab,

but Ruth clung to Naomi. Naomi said, "Behold, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return with her." Ruth said, "Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee; for whither thou goest, I will go, and where thou lodgest, I will lodge; thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God. Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried."

So they went until they came to Bethlehem and the people came to meet them and said, "Is this Naomi?" And she said to them, "Call me not Naomi, which means sweetness; call me Mara, which means bitterness, for the Lord has dealt very bitterly with me. I went away from you with my husband and my sons, and they are no more." They arrived at Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

Naomi knew a man whose name was Boaz, related to her husband, a man of wealth. Naomi and Ruth were very poor and Ruth went to pick up grain in the fields, that the reapers had dropped. She happened to go into a part of the field belonging to Boaz.

When Boaz came to the fields, he said to his

RUTH, THE MOABITESS, GLEANING IN BOAZ' FIELD

servant, "Whose daughter is this?" And the servant answered, "It is the Moabite daughter that came back with Naomi." Ruth said to Boaz, "I pray you let me glean and gather after the reapers, among the sheaves." Then Boaz told her not to go to another field to glean, but to remain there with his maidens, and when she was thirsty to drink of the water that the young men had drawn. Ruth bowed low and said to him, "Why are you so kind to me, a stranger?" And Boaz answered, "I have heard of all that you have done for your mother-in-law, since the death of your husband, and how you left your father and your mother and your native land, and have come to a people that you knew not before, and may the Lord reward you."

So Ruth, with the maidens of Boaz, gleaned in his fields until the end of the harvest and lived with Naomi, her mother-in-law.

Then Boaz went to the gate of the city, where there were many people and told them that he had chosen Ruth, the Moabitess, for his wife, and all the people were pleased. So Boaz and Ruth were married and when their son was born, they called him Obed. Naomi was very happy and loved the child dearly.

The Little Lad Whom God Called

NEAR the mountain of Ephraim, there was a man named Elkanah, who had two wives. The name of the one was Hannah and the name of the other was Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.

Every year this man went up out of the city to worship and to sacrifice to the Lord. He gave to Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters, portions to sacrifice. To Hannah, he also gave a large portion, but she was sad, for she had no children. Every year when she went to the house of the Lord, with her husband, she wept and would not eat.

Then Elkanah, her husband, said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? Am I not better to you than ten sons?" So Hannah rose up and went to the Temple, where Eli, the priest, sat by the door post. Hannah wept and prayed and she made a vow saying, "Oh, Lord of hosts, if you will send me a son, I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life." As Hannah prayed, Eli noticed that her lips moved, but he did not hear her speak. Eli

thought she was drunk and said to her, "How long will you be drunk? Put away your wine and go." Hannah answered and said, "No, my lord, I have not drunk wine. I am a sad woman and have prayed to the Lord." Then Eli answered and said, "Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant what you have asked of him." She thanked him and went away and was no longer sad.

Early in the morning Elkanah and his family worshipped the Lord and then returned to Ramah, the city where they lived.

The Lord sent a son to Hannah, and she called him Samuel, which means "asked from God."

Again the man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer the yearly sacrifice. But Hannah would not go; she said she would wait until the child was older and then she would take him to the Temple of the Lord to live there forever. Elkanah told her to do what seemed best to her, so she cared for the child a little longer. Then she took with her three oxen, a measure of flour, a bottle of wine, and brought the child to the house of the Lord in Shiloh. The child was very young. To Eli, the priest, she said, "Oh, my lord, as surely as you live, I am the

woman who stood by you here, praying to the Lord. For this child I prayed, and the Lord has answered my prayer. Therefore I have brought him to serve the Lord as long as he lives."

Eli blessed Elkanah and his wife and asked God to send them sons and daughters, because they had given Samuel to serve the Lord. And Hannah had three more sons and two daughters. The infant Samuel, grew and served the Lord with Eli, the priest.

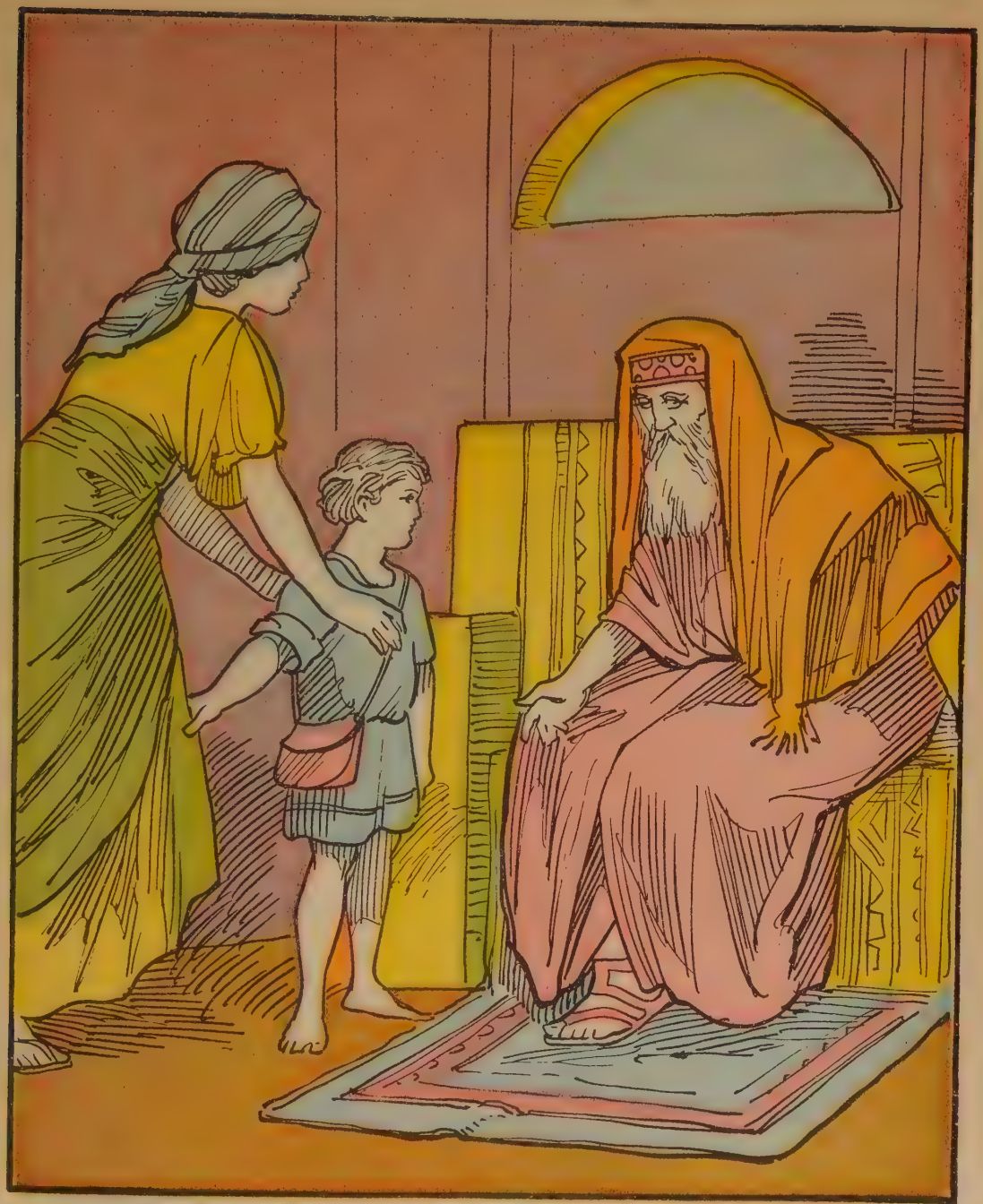
Eli became old and his eyes dim, so that he could not see. His sons were very wicked, but Eli did not punish them, as he should have done, so God told Eli that his sons would die and that he would appoint another priest who would serve the Lord faithfully and do as the Lord commanded.

One night, before the lamp of God went out in the Temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was, Samuel was sleeping. The Lord called Samuel and he said, "Here am I." Samuel ran to Eli and said, "Here am I, for you called me." Eli said, "I did not call you, lie down again." Samuel went and lay down. The Lord called Samuel again. Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here am I, for

you did call me." Eli answered, "I called not, my son, lie down again." The Lord called Samuel again but Samuel did not know it was the Lord. He arose and went to Eli again, the third time and said, "Here am I, for you did call me." Then Eli knew that the Lord had called the child, and he said to Samuel, "Go, lie down, and if he call you, say 'Speak Lord, for I hear you.' " So Samuel went and lay down and the Lord came and called, "Samuel, Samuel." Then Samuel answered, "Speak Lord, I hear you." Then the Lord said, "I will punish Eli, because his sons were bad and he did not stop them."

In the morning Eli called Samuel and asked him what the Lord had said to him and Samuel was afraid to tell him. But Eli said to him, "Do not keep from me anything, that the Lord said." And Samuel told him. Eli said, "It is to be as the Lord said, and let Him do what seems good."

Samuel grew and all Israel knew that he was a prophet of the Lord.



THE CHILD SAMUEL PRESENTED BEFORE ELI

DAVID SLAYS THE GIANT GOLIATH

The Shepherd Boy Who Slew the Giant

WHEN Samuel was old he made his sons judges over Israel. The name of his first-born was Joel, and of his second Abiah, but they were not good men. They took bribes and thought more of money than of the Lord.

The elders of Israel came to Samuel and asked for a king to rule over them. Samuel prayed to God for wisdom, so that he could give the elders of Israel good advice. The Lord said to him, "Listen to the voice of the people, for it is not you, but me that they have turned against. Remind them how I brought them out of Egypt and have been with them even to this day. Tell them that a king will take their sons to slave for him and to drag his chariots; and their daughters to bake and cook for him. He will take their fields and vineyards and the best of all that they have and give them to his servants. The day will come when they will cry to the Lord to save them, but the Lord will not listen."

Samuel told the people what the Lord had said, but they would not listen to him and told him to

DAVID'S FRIENDSHIP WITH THE KING'S SON

appoint a king over them. So the Lord said to Samuel, "Tell them to return to their homes and a king will be appointed."

A mighty man of the tribe of Benjamin whose name was Kish, had a son, Saul, who was taller than any of the people and he was a very handsome young man. One day, Saul went to the temple to ask advice of Samuel. The Lord had told Samuel that a young man would come from the land of Benjamin and that he should make him captain over Israel. When Samuel saw Saul, he knew that he was the man who was to rule over the people. Samuel kissed him, called the people and said to them, "You see the man whom the Lord has chosen. There is none like him in all the land." All the people shouted, "God save the king."

Saul ruled over Israel and he had two sons, Jonathan and Ishui and he gathered about him all the strong and brave men, for the Philistines were at war with Israel as long as Saul lived. Saul often did not do as the Lord commanded him and this grieved Samuel. The Lord said to Samuel, "Go to Jesse, the Bethlehemite, for I have provided a king among his sons." So Samuel went to the

house of Jesse and seven of Jesse's sons passed before Samuel. Then Samuel said, "The Lord has not chosen any of these, are all your children here?" Jesse said, "There remains yet the youngest, he is tending the sheep." They sent for him and brought him in. He was a beautiful lad and the Lord told Samuel that this son was the one who was to be king. His name was David. Samuel blessed him and returned to his home.

The spirit of the Lord departed from Saul and he was filled with evil spirits. So his servants said to him, "There is a young man who plays upon the harp, and if you will send for him, he will play for you and the evil spirits will depart." Saul sent messengers to bring David, the shepherd boy, to him. David came to Saul and when the evil spirits were in Saul, David took his harp and played. Saul was refreshed and the evil spirits departed.

The Philistines gathered their armies together to make war upon the Israelites. The Philistines were on a mountain on one side, the Israelites were on a mountain on the other side, and there was a valley between them. There came out a giant from the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, who

was about ten feet high. He had a helmet of brass upon his head and a coat of steel over his shoulders and plates of brass on his legs and he carried a great spear, while his shieldbearer went before him.

Goliath called to the armies of Israel, "Choose a man, and let him come and fight me. If he kill me, then we will be your servants, but if I kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us." When Saul, and all Israel heard these words, they were terrified and greatly afraid. For forty days the giant came and defied the Israelites.

David came from the pasture where he was tending sheep, to see the army, and behold Goliath, the giant, came from the army of the Philistines. David heard him challenge the Israelites and knew how frightened the soldiers of Israel were.

David spoke to the men that were near him and said, "I will fight the giant." The men scoffed at him, but when Saul heard what David had said, "You are but a boy, and he is a mighty man of war," were his words to him. David answered, "When I guard my father's sheep and a lion or a bear come to take a lamb out of the flock, I kill them. If the Lord saves me from being devoured by the lion and

the bear, he will also save me from being slain by the Philistine."

Saul armed David with his armour and put a helmet of brass on his head, gave him his sword and David went to fight the giant. He could not walk in the heavy armour. He took it off, and taking his staff in his hand, he chose five small stones out of the brook and put them in a shepherd's bag, which he had, and carrying a sling in his hand, he went to meet the giant.

When Goliath saw David he looked upon him with contempt and said to him, "I will give your flesh to the birds of the air, and to the beasts of the field." Then David said to Goliath, "You come to me with a sword and with a spear, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied."

And it came to pass that when the giant came to meet David, David ran toward him and with his sling threw a stone that struck the giant on his forehead and killed him. When the Philistines saw that their leader was dead, they fled. From that day, David lived in the house of Saul; and Jonathan, the son of Saul, loved David as his own soul.

Solomon, the Wise King

WHEN David died, his son Solomon became king of Israel. He was a good ruler and was liked by his people.

One night the Lord appeared before the young king in a dream and asked what he most desired. Solomon said that he wanted an understanding heart, in order to be able to judge his people wisely and well. Most men would have asked for riches or fame and God was pleased with him for putting the welfare of his people above his own desires. Therefore, He gave the king those gifts for which he did not ask, besides the knowledge he wanted. Solomon's wisdom became famous and people came from all parts of his kingdom with disputes for him to settle.

One of the most difficult cases that he had to judge was a dispute between two young women, both of whom had recently become mothers. During the night one of the children had died. Each claimed the living one to be her own.

Solomon deliberated a long time. Then he asked for a sword. When it was brought he said,

THE WISE JUDGMENT OF SOLOMON

"Divide the living child in two and give half to one and half to the other." One woman agreed to this, saying that it would be fair for both.

But the other exclaimed, "Oh, my lord, give the child to her, but do not slay it." Then Solomon said to give the child to the woman who cared for its life, for she was the true mother.

The king saw that Israel was making a big mistake in allowing the sacrifices and other important holy ceremonies to take place in many widespread towns. He realized that more centralized worship was needed, so he decided to build a huge structure in Jerusalem for the worship of God. He called it the Temple and prepared to build it with great care.

From the King of Tyre Solomon bought the necessary timber. It came from the forests there which are noted for the excellent quality of their trees. The stone used was prepared at the quarries, so that no sound of an iron tool at work was heard in Jerusalem during the building of the Temple. The people were eager to help, so rich and poor toiled together in its erection.

Solomon made the Temple magnificent. It was made of the cedar from Tyre, finely carved. Inside

THE QUEEN OF SHEBA VISITS SOLOMON

the sanctuary he put the ark of the covenant and before it the altar. He built the molten sea to rest on twelve carved oxen. The entire inner walls of the Temple were overlaid with pure gold. When it was finished, after thirteen years of work, it was worthy of its builder, Solomon. He showed that he realized the true worth of the Temple when he exclaimed, "But will God dwell on the earth? Heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain Thee, how much less this house that I have builded?"

The Temple was a masterpiece. Its fame brought people from all over the world to visit it and the great man who built it. The Jews thronged to Jerusalem to worship.

Among those who came to see the king was the Queen of Sheba, the ruler of a large nation herself. She brought many rich presents of gorgeous silks and laces and much gold and spices. She also brought several devices to test Solomon's famous wisdom. He showed her his magnificent palace and the Temple. He answered her questions and satisfied her in her tests. When she returned to her own country, her tales added further to his already great reputation.

SOLOMON, THE WISE KING

Solomon's reign was long and successful. He endowed Israel with a beautiful Temple and many wise sayings and proverbs. He was a worthy successor of David.

Elijah, Prophet and Miracle-Worker

AFTER the death of Solomon, Rehoboam, his son, became king over the children of Israel. But some of the people were displeased with him and the tribes of Judah and Benjamin alone remained loyal to him. The other ten tribes of Israel selected Jeroboam to rule over them and there was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all their days.

In time, Omri reigned over Israel. He bought a hill for two talents of silver and built a city on the hill, calling the city Samaria, after Shemer, who had owned the hill. But Omri was more wicked than all the kings before him and his son, Ahab, also committed many sins. He married Jezebel, the daughter of the Zidonians, and worshipped idols, building altars to them.

Elijah, who lived in Gilead, was a man of God and he went to Ahab and said to him, "As the Lord God of Israel liveth, there shall not be dew nor rain in this land for years, until I ask for it." The Lord knew that would make Ahab very angry, so he told Elijah to flee and to hide himself by the

brook Cherith, which is in the wilderness near Jericho. The Lord said to Elijah, "Thou shalt drink of the brook and I have commanded ravens to feed you there."

Elijah did as the Lord commanded and the ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and in the evening, and he drank of the water in the brook. After a while the brook dried up, for there had been no rain. Then the Lord said to Elijah, "Arise, go to Zarephath. I have commanded a widow there to feed you." So Elijah went to Zarephath and when he came to the gate of the city, behold the widow was there, gathering sticks. Elijah called to her and said, "Bring me, I pray you, a little water that I may drink." As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, "Bring me, I pray you, a piece of bread in your hand." And she said, "As the Lord thy God liveth, I have no bread, but a handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse; and now I am gathering a few sticks that I may go in and bake it for me and my son, that we may eat it and die;" for there was famine in all the land and the people were starving. Elijah said to her, "Fear not, go and bake a little cake for me first,

and after that bake more for you and your son, for the Lord has said that the meal and the oil will last until the Lord sends rain upon the earth."

The widow went and did as Elijah told her and she and her son and Elijah had food for many days. The woman's son became very sick and died. She went to Elijah and wept. He took the child and carried him to his own bed and cried to the Lord saying, "O, Lord, my God, I pray you let this child's soul come to him again." The Lord heard the voice of Elijah and the child returned to life. Elijah took the child and brought him to his mother, saying to her, "See, your son lives." The woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God and that the words that you speak are God's words, and true."

Elijah Destroys the False Prophets

AFTER many days the Lord came to Elijah, saying, "Go show yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain upon the earth." Elijah went to Ahab and there was famine in Samaria.

Ahab called Obadiah, who was the governor of his house, and Obadiah feared the Lord, for he was a good man. When Jezebel, the wicked wife of Ahab, tried to destroy all the prophets of the Lord, Obadiah took one hundred prophets and hid them in caves and fed them with bread and water. Ahab said to Obadiah, "Look all over the land, where there are fountains of water and brooks, perhaps we may find grass to save the horses and mules alive, that we may not lose all the beasts." They divided the land between them to pass through it, Ahab went one way by himself and Obadiah went another way by himself.

As Obadiah went on his way, behold Elijah met him and he knew him. He fell on his face and said, "Art thou my lord Elijah?" Elijah answered, "I am, go, tell Ahab that Elijah is here." Obadiah

ELIJAH THE PROPHET HIDES IN A CAVE

ELIJAH CALLS DOWN FIRE FROM HEAVEN

answered, "As the Lord, thy God liveth, there is no nation or kingdom where Ahab has not sent to seek you and as soon as I have gone, the spirit of the Lord will carry you, where I know not, and when I come and tell Ahab, and he cannot find you, he will slay me." Elijah said, "As the Lord liveth, before whom I stand, I will surely show myself to Ahab today."

Obadiah went to meet Ahab and told him, and Ahab went to meet Elijah. When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, "Are you the one that troubles Israel?" Elijah answered, "I have not troubled Israel; but you and your family. You have forgotten the Lord and his commandments and have followed Baalim, the god of the heathens. Gather all Israel around me, at Mount Carmel, and the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal, and the four hundred prophets of the groves, that eat at Jezebel's table."

So Ahab sent word to all the children of Israel and gathered the prophets around Mount Carmel. Elijah came and said to the people, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord be God, then follow him, but if Baal be God, then fol-

low him." The people answered not a word. Then Elijah continued, "I am the only prophet of the Lord that remains in the land. All of the others have been slain, or have fled, but of Baal's prophets there are four hundred and fifty. Let them therefore give us two oxen; and let them choose one ox for themselves and cut it in pieces and put no fire under it. I will dress the other bullock and lay it on wood and put no fire under it. Call on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the Lord; and the God that answereth by fire, let Him be God." All the people answered and said, "It shall be as Elijah has said."

The prophets of Baal killed the bullock which was given them and laid it on the altar, calling on the name of Baal from morning until noon saying, "O, Baal, hear us." But there was no answer. At noon Elijah mocked them and said, "Cry aloud, for if he is a god, perhaps he is talking, or on a journey, or asleep and must be waked." And they cried aloud and cut themselves, which was the custom among heathen nations, but there was no answer to their prayers.

Late in the afternoon Elijah built an altar in

ELIJAH ACCUSES THE WICKED KING AHAB

the name of the Lord, and he cut the oxen in pieces and placed it on the altar. At the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, Elijah came near and said, "Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and of Israel, let it be known this day, that Thou art God. That I have done all these things at Thy word. Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that the people may know that Thou art the Lord God, and turn from their idols, to Thee." Then the fire of the Lord fell and burned the sacrifice and the altar. When the people saw this, they fell on their faces and said, "The Lord, He is the God; the Lord, He is the God."

Elijah slew all the prophets of Baal, and the heavens became black with clouds and a great rain fell.

The King Who Stole a Vineyard

ABOTH had a vineyard which was near the palace of Ahab, King of Samaria. Ahab said to Naboth, "Give me your vineyard that I may have it for a garden of herbs, because it is near my house. I will give you for it, a better vineyard, or if you prefer, I will pay you what it is worth in money." Naboth said to Ahab, "The Lord forbids it. The vineyard was my father's and it came to me from him, as an inheritance, and I will keep it." Ahab returned to his house, displeased, and would not eat.

Jezebel, his wife, came to him and said, "Why is your spirit so sad; why do you not eat?" And he said to her, "Because I spoke to Naboth and said to him, 'Give me your vineyard for money, or else if it please you, I will give you another vineyard for it,' and he answered 'I will not give you my vineyard.'" Jezebel, his wife, said to him, "Do you not govern the kingdom of Israel? Arise and eat bread and let your heart be merry; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth." So she wrote letters, in Ahab's name and sealed them with his seal, and sent the letters

to the elders and the nobles that were in the city where Naboth was living.

She wrote the letters saying, "Proclaim a fast and set Naboth on high among the people; set two men before him, who will say that Naboth cursed God and the king, and then carry him out and stone him, that he may die."

The elders and nobles did as Jezebel had ordered them to do. They found two men who swore that Naboth had cursed God and the king, and they stoned him to death, which was the manner in which Jews killed those who had sinned.

But Naboth had not cursed God, or the king. The men who swore that he did, were telling falsehoods and were very wicked.

When Jezebel learned that Naboth had been stoned to death, she went to Ahab and said, "Arise, take the vineyard of Naboth which he refused to give you for money, for Naboth is not alive, but dead." Ahab went to the vineyard to take it. The Lord called Elijah and told him to meet Ahab and all that he should say to him.

When Ahab saw Elijah, he said to him, "Have you found me, my enemy?" and he answered, "I

have found you and will bring evil upon you and will take away your children. You have provoked the Lord to anger and made Israel sin." And of Jezebel he said, "The dogs shall eat her by the wall of the city." All these things came to pass as the Lord had said.

Elijah's "Fiery Chariot" Ride

AND it came to pass, the Bible says, that when the Lord was to take up Elijah into heaven, that Elisha, his servant, went with him to a place called Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, I pray you, for the Lord has sent me to Bethel." Elisha said to him, "As the Lord liveth and as my soul liveth, I will not leave thee." So he went down to Bethel.

The young men who were taught by the prophets in Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that the Lord will take away your master today?" Elisha said, "Yes, I know it; hold your peace."

Elijah said to him, "Elisha, tarry here, I pray thee, for the Lord has sent me to Jericho." Elijah wanted to be alone when the Lord took him up to heaven. Elisha answered, "As the Lord liveth and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee." So they came to Jericho.

The sons of the prophets who were at Jericho came to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that the Lord will take away your master today?" And

he answered, "Yes, I know it; hold your peace." Elijah said to him, "Tarry here, I pray you, for the Lord has sent me to Jordan." And he said, "As the Lord liveth and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee." Fifty men from the schools of the prophets came and stood a long way off from them and watched them. Elijah and Elisha stood by the Jordan. Elijah took his mantle and wrapped it together and struck the waters and they were divided, so that Elijah and Elisha walked over on dry ground. When they had gone over, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask what I shall do for thee, for I am taken away from thee." Elisha said, "I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me." Elijah said, "Thou hast asked a hard thing; but if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee, but if not, it shall not be so."

And it came to pass that as they still went on and talked, that behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and Elijah went up in the chariot into heaven. Elisha saw it and he cried, "My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and the horsemen thereof." And he saw him no more.

Elisha took up the mantle of Elijah that fell

from him and went back and stood by the banks of the Jordan. He took the mantle of Elijah and struck the waters and said, "Where is the Lord God of Elijah?" When he also had struck the waters, they parted and Elisha went over.

When the students of the prophets saw him, they said, "The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha," and they came to meet him and bowed low before him.

The Faith of a Little Captive Maid

NAAMAN, captain of the army of the king of Syria, was a great man, who was beloved by his master. He was also honorable and brave, but he was a leper. A leper is one who has a disease of the skin that the doctors are unable to cure.

Naaman's wife had a little maid who had been brought as a captive from the land of Israel. She waited on Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "I wish that my master, Naaman, was with the prophet that is in Samaria, for he would cure him of his leprosy." Someone told the king what the little maid had said, and the king of Syria called Naaman and said, "Go, go and I will send a letter to the king of Israel." Naaman departed and took with him ten talents of silver and six thousand pieces of gold and ten changes of clothes.

He brought the letter to the king of Israel, saying, "Now when this letter reaches you, I have sent with it Naaman, my servant, to you, that you may cure him of his leprosy." When the king of Israel read the letter he tore his clothes and said, "Am I

God, to kill and to make alive, that this man sends to me to cure a man of leprosy? He is perhaps trying to seek a quarrel with me."

When Elisha heard about it, he sent a messenger to the king saying, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let the man come to me and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel."

So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariot and stood at the door of the house of Elisha. Elisha sent a messenger to him saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan, seven times, and you will be cured." But Naaman was angry and went away saying, "Behold I thought he will surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the Lord, his God, and strike his hand over me and cure the leprosy." "Are not the rivers of Damascus better than all the waters of Israel? May I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage.

His servants came near and said, "My father, if the prophet had bid you do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much rather then, when he said to you, Wash and be clean?" Then Naaman went down and dipped himself seven times

in the Jordan, as the man of God had told him, and he was cured.

He returned to the man of God, with all his men and stood before him and said, "Behold now, I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel; now therefore take a gift from thy servant." But Elisha answered, "As the Lord liveth, I will receive none." Naaman urged him to take it, but he refused.

Then Naaman asked for as much earth from the land of Israel as two mules could carry, with which to make an altar, for hereafter, he said, no offerings would he make to other gods, but unto the Lord. And he added:

"But in this, may the Lord pardon me, when my master, the king, goes into the temple of Rimmon to worship. There he leans on my hand and I bow down myself in the temple of Rimmon with the king." Elisha bade him go in peace.

Gehazi, the servant of Elisha, the man of God, followed after Naaman. When Naaman saw him running after him, he stopped and said, "Is all well?" The servant answered, "All is well. My master has sent me to ask for a talent of silver and

two garments for two young students who have come from Mount Ephraim."

Naaman gave him the silver and garments and sent two of his servants to carry them. When they came to the tower, the servant of Elisha took the silver and garments and hid them and then went to his master. Elisha asked him where he had been and he said he had not been away. Elisha knew that it was a falsehood and that the man had gone to Naaman for the silver and garments. The leprosy of Naaman fell upon this servant as a punishment.

The Hebrew Maid Who Saved Israel

AHASUERUS was king of Persia and ruled from India to Ethiopia. In the third year of his reign he made a feast, to which he invited all the princes, nobles and servants of his province. For one hundred and eighty days he showed them the riches and treasures of his kingdom and then he gave another great feast to which all the people that were in the palace were invited. The curtains around the court of the palace were white, green and blue, fastened with cords of fine linen. The beds were of gold and silver. The pavement of red, blue, white and black marble. There was wine in abundance and this was served in goblets of gold.

On the seventh day of the feast, when the king had drunk much wine, and was merry, he sent his men to bring Vashti, the Queen, to the feast, to show her to the princes and the people, for she was very beautiful. Vashti refused to come and this made the king very angry. Then the king said to the wise men, "What shall we do to the queen, for she has disobeyed the king?" The wise men an-

swered, "Vashti, the Queen, has not done wrong to the king only, but also to the princes and to all the people in the kingdom. For if other women hear that the queen came not to the king when he commanded, they also will not obey their husbands. Therefore let Vashti come no more before the king, and bestow her property upon another who is better than she." This pleased the king and he sent letters to every province in the language of the people, that every man should rule in his own house.

The king's servants came to him and said, "Let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom, who will gather together all the beautiful maidens and let the maiden which pleases the king, be queen instead of Vashti." This pleased the king and he ordered that it be done.

Among the servants in the palace there was a Jewish man whose name was Mordecai, who had been brought as a captive, from Jerusalem. He had a beautiful cousin named Esther, who had neither father nor mother, and whom Mordecai had raised as his own daughter. It came to pass, that when the king's decree was heard, and when many maidens were gathered in the palace, Esther

ESTHER IN THE PALACE OF KING AHASUERUS

JOB AND HIS ACCUSING FRIENDS

was also brought to the king's house. She found favor in his sight. He set the royal crown upon her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.

Mordecai, sitting at the king's gate, heard two men plotting to kill the king. Mordecai told Esther, and she informed the king. The two men were hanged and a record made of this in the book of the chronicles, before the king.

The king made Haman the most exalted prince in the kingdom and all the princes and people were commanded to bow down before him. Mordecai would bow to no one but his God, and this made Haman very angry. Haman went to the king and told him that there were people in his provinces whose laws were different from all other people; that they did not keep the king's laws and it would be safer for the king if they were destroyed.

Haman promised to pay into the treasury of the king ten thousand talents of silver when these people had perished. The king gave Haman permission to order the death of all the Jewish people in Persia, even the mothers and babies, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month of Adar, and to take all that they possessed. Letters were sent,

signed by the king, to every province in the land, commanding the death of the Jews on the appointed day.

Haman feasted and drank much wine. Mordecai put on sackcloth and wept. Esther's maids told her that Mordecai wept at the gate. Esther sent him garments, but he would not receive them. So Esther sent one of the men in the palace to ask Mordecai why he was so sad. Mordecai told him of the sum of money that Haman had promised to pay the king when the Jews were destroyed and he sent Esther a copy of the king's decree. Esther sent word to Mordecai that she had not seen the king for thirty days and that anyone who went to him, who was not called, was put to death, unless the king held out the golden sceptre that he may live. Mordecai replies, "Think not of yourself, but of your people." Then Esther bade the servants to tell Mordecai to gather all the Jews in the city together and to fast with them three days and nights. She and her maidens would also fast, and on the third day she would go to the king and if she died, it would be for her people.

On the third day, Esther put on her royal robes

and stood before the king. When he saw her he was pleased and held out his sceptre and said he would grant her any request, even to half his kingdom. Esther answers, "If it seem good to the king, let the king and Haman come this day to a feast which I have prepared." The king told Haman to make haste to do as Esther wished, and the king and Haman came to the banquet that Esther had prepared. Again the king asked Esther if she had any request to make and she answered, "Only that you and Haman come again to the feast that I shall prepare tomorrow." Haman went away joyful, but was enraged when he saw Mordecai would not bow down to him in the courtyard of the palace. Haman ordered a gallows, fifty cubits high, to be built, upon which to hang Mordecai the next day.

That night the king could not sleep and he asked that the book of records be read to him and it was found that Mordecai had warned Queen Esther that two men were plotting to slay the king. The king said, "What honor and reward have been bestowed upon Mordecai for this?" The king's servants answered that nothing had been done for him. The king asked who was in the court. Haman had come in

to tell the king about the gallows that had been built, and in which Mordecai was to hang. The king's servants said to him, "Behold, Haman is in the court." The king sent for him. The king spoke to Haman saying, "What shall be done for the man that the king delighteth to honor?" Haman said, thinking to himself 'to whom would the king delight to do honor more than to myself,' "For the man whom the king would honor," he said, "let the royal robes be brought, which the king has worn, and the horse that the king rides upon, and the royal crown which is upon his head. Let one of the most noble princes place the robes and crown on the man whom the king delighteth to honor and lead him on horseback through the streets of the city, proclaiming, 'This shall be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honor!'"

Then the king said to Haman, "Make haste and do as you have said, to Mordecai, the Jew."

Haman did as he was commanded and then went to his house and wept. The king's messenger went to bring him to the banquet that Esther had prepared. Again the king said to Esther, "What is it that you wish? It shall be given to you,

even to half the kingdom." Esther, the queen, answered, "I have found favor in thy sight. Oh, king, if it please thee, let my life be spared and my people. For we are to be slain." The king did not know that Esther was a Jewess, the cousin of Mordecai.

The king said to Esther, "Who is he that dares to do this wicked thing." Esther answered, "The enemy is this wicked Haman." Then one of the servants said, "Behold there is the gallows which Haman had made for Mordecai, who had saved the life of the king." Then the king said, "Hang Haman upon it and give his house to Esther."

Esther placed Mordecai in charge of the house and the king placed royal robes upon him and the people were not slain but had joy and gladness. To this day, the Jews celebrate the feast of Esther.

The Trials and Vindication of Job

THERE was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. He was an upright man who believed in God and did no evil. He had seven sons and three daughters and he was the greatest of all the men of the East. He had seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen and many servants.

His sons had homes, each one his own, and they had feasts, each one in his turn, and they called for their sisters to eat and drink with them. After these feasts Job would rise up early in the morning and offer burnt sacrifice, fearing that some of his sons had sinned and forgotten their God.

There came a day, when Satan said to the Lord, "Job remembers you because you have blessed him. Take away all that he has and he will curse you." So the Lord told Satan he could test Job's faith in God, but he must not slay Job

One day when Job's sons and daughters were eating and drinking in their eldest brother's house, a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing, the asses feeding beside them, robbers came,

carried them away and slew the servants; I only have escaped to tell you." While he was speaking another came and said, "The fire of God fell from heaven and has burned up the sheep and the servants. I only have escaped to tell you." Then another came saying, "The Chaldeans fell upon the camels and have carried them away and killed the servants. I only have escaped to tell you." While the third was still speaking, came another and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking in their eldest brother's house, behold a great wind came from the wilderness, blew down the walls of the house and the young men are dead. I only have escaped to tell you." Then Job arose, tore his mantle and shaved his head, fell down and worshiped saying, "Naked I came into the world and naked shall I return; the Lord gave, the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

Then God sent sickness to Job, to test him further. He was covered with boils from his head to his feet. Then his wife said to him, "Do you still trust in God? Curse him and die." But he said to her, "You speak like one of the foolish women. We receive good from the hand of God, shall

we not also receive evil?" And in his heart Job still trusted in God and believed that whatever God did was good.

Job had three friends who came to comfort him, and when they saw him they did not know him, he was so changed. They tore their clothes and wept and sat down to mourn for him for seven days, for they saw that his grief was very great. Then Job lamented the day he was born and prayed that he might die. Then a voice, which was the voice of God, told Job of all the wondrous works of God. Job repented for having been tempted to curse himself or anything that God had made. God made Job well and blessed him with more than he had had before.

DANIEL INTERPRETS THE WRITING ON THE WALL

DANIEL IN THE LION'S DEN

Daniel Reads the Warning Message

NOW Belshazzar, the king, gave a great feast, to which he invited a thousand of his lords and drank wine with them. Belshazzar commanded his servants to bring the gold and silver dishes which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple in Jerusalem. They brought the precious dishes and the king and his princes, his wives too, all drank from them.

While they were feasting, and praising the gods of gold and silver, wood and stone, a hand came and wrote upon the wall of the banquet hall. The king's face was pale and he trembled with fear. He called for the wise men of Babylon and said to them, "Whoever shall read this writing and tell me the meaning of it, shall be clothed with scarlet and have a chain of gold around his neck and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom." All the king's wise men came, but they could not read the writing and the king was greatly worried.

The queen heard the words of the king. She came to him and said, "Oh, king, live forever and be

not troubled. There is a man in your kingdom in whom is the spirit of the holy gods, and in the days when your father lived he had great wisdom and understanding; therefore let this man, whose name is Daniel, be brought and he will tell you the meaning of the handwriting on the wall."

Daniel was then brought in before the king. The king said to him, "Are you Daniel, who was brought as a captive from Judah? I have heard of you that the spirit of the gods is in you and that you are wise and can tell the meaning of dreams and secrets. If you can tell me the meaning of the writing on the wall, I will reward you richly and make you third ruler of the kingdom." Daniel answered and said, "Keep your gifts for yourself and give your rewards to another. I will read the writing to the king.

"O king, the most high God gave Nebuchadnezzar, your father, a kingdom and majesty, glory and honor. He had great power. When his heart was hardened with pride, he was taken from his throne and driven from the sons of men, lived with the animals in the fields, until he repented and knew that it is the most high God who is the great

ruler of all. And now you, O Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, altho you know what happened to your father. You have brought dishes from the temple of the Lord and drunk wine from them and praised the gods of stone and wood, but the God who has made you to see, and to hear, and who has given you life, you have not glorified."

"Therefore this is what his hand has written, Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin. This is the meaning.

"Mene, God has ended your kingdom.

"Tekel, You have been weighed in the balance and found wanting.

"Peres, Your kingdom will be given to the Medes and the Persians." Then Belshazzar commanded that Daniel should be clothed in scarlet and have a gold chain around his neck, proclaiming him third ruler of the kingdom. That night Belshazzar was slain. Darius the Median took the kingdom.

Daniel in the Den of Lions

DARIUS placed one hundred and twenty princes as rulers over the kingdom. Over these he placed three presidents, of whom Daniel was the first, and to whom the princes were to give account of their actions.

The king placed Daniel so high, for he knew that Daniel was a good and just man, who would serve the king well. The presidents and princes tried to find some fault with Daniel, but they could not, for he was always faithful and honorable. They then said to one another that they would have to find something concerning his God of which to complain to the king.

Accordingly they went to the king and asked him to sign a decree that if anyone should ask a favor of God or man, excepting the king, he should be cast into the den of lions. The king signed the decree, for he did not know that the presidents and princes were trying to slay Daniel in this way.

When Daniel knew that the decree was signed, he went to his house and the windows toward Je-

rusalem being open, he knelt down three times a day and prayed, giving thanks to God, as he had done before.

The men assembled and found Daniel praying to his God, so they went to the king and reminded him of his decree, which according to the laws of the Medes and Persians could not be changed. They told the king that Daniel who was one of the children of Israel, brought in captivity from Judah, was praying to his Lord three times a day. The king was fond of Daniel and wished that he had not signed the decree. He tried to save Daniel all day, and until evening, from the punishment, but the princes held him to his agreement. Daniel was brought and cast into the den of lions.

Then the king said to him, "Daniel, thy God whom thou servest continually, He will save thee." The king went to his palace and passed the night fasting, without sleep, nor would he allow any music in the palace. Very early the next morning the king arose and went in haste to the den of the lions. He cried with a sorrowful voice to Daniel, "Oh, Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God whom thou servest continually able to save you from the

lions?" Then said Daniel to the king, "Oh, king, live forever. My God sent an angel that shut the lions' mouths, for I have done no harm to thee, nor to anyone, Oh, king."

The king was exceedingly glad and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den, and no hurt was found upon him, for he believed in God. Then the king commanded that those who had accused Daniel, should be cast into the den of lions, which was done. The lions devoured them.

Then King Darius wrote to all people and all nations upon the earth, "Peace be unto you. The God of Daniel, He is the living God, and His kingdom shall not be destroyed, even unto the end of the world."

The Prophet Who Fled from God

NINEVEH was a great city, but the people in it were very wicked. So the Lord spoke to Jonah, the son of Amittai and said, "Arise, go to Nineveh and cry against the wickedness there."

Jonah fled to Joppa, away from where the Lord wished him to go, and he found that a ship was sailing to Tarshish; so he paid the fare and went aboard the ship. The Lord sent a great wind from the sea and such a storm that the ship was in danger of being broken to pieces. The sailors were afraid and cried to their gods and threw into the sea the things that were in the ship, to lighten it. Jonah had gone down to the lower part of the ship and lay there, fast asleep. The captain came to him and said, "What do you mean by sleeping when the ship is in great danger? Arise, call upon your God and He may think of us and save us."

The sailors said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots that we may know which one of us caused this evil to come upon us." So they cast lots and the lot fell upon Jonah. Then they said to him, "Tell

us, we pray you, why has this evil come to us? What is your trade, where do you come from and who are your people?" Jonah said to them, "I am a Hebrew and I fear the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land." Then the men were frightened and said to Jonah, "Why have you done this?" They knew that he was trying to flee from God, for he had told them. Then they said to Jonah, "What shall we do to you that the sea may be calm?" For the waves were very high. Jonah said to them, "Throw me into the sea, then the sea will be calm, for I know that it is because of me that this great storm has come."

The men rowed hard, trying to reach the shore, but they could not, so they cried to the Lord and said, "We beseech thee, Oh, Lord, let us not perish for this man's life, and let us not be guilty of shedding innocent blood, for Thou, Oh, Lord, hast done as it pleased Thee." So they took Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea became calm. Then the men feared God and made a sacrifice to him.

A great fish, which the Lord sent, swallowed Jonah and Jonah was inside the fish three days and

three nights. Then Jonah prayed to the Lord and repented and the fish threw Jonah out upon the dry land.

The voice of the Lord came to Jonah for the second time saying, "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach there what I shall tell you." So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, a city so great that it took three days to travel across it.

After Jonah had traveled one day in the city, he warned the people that in forty days Nineveh would be destroyed, because of the wickedness of the people. The people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the king to the lowliest person. The king commanded that every one must turn from evil and wicked ways, and God saw that they had repented and He did not destroy Nineveh.

This displeased Jonah for he thought no one would believe that he was a prophet, because the Lord had not done as he had said, so he went out of the city and sat down under a shed that he made, waiting to see if the city would be destroyed.

The Lord caused a vine to grow up over Jonah, that it might shade him from the sun. and Jonah

was very glad to have the vine over him. But God sent a worm, when the morning sun rose the next day and it ate some of the roots of the vine and the vine withered. Then a hot east wind blew and the sun beat down upon Jonah and he was faint and wished that he could die. Then God said to Jonah, "You have pity upon the vine, which you did not plant, and for which you did not work and which came up in a night and died in a night. Should I not spare Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons, some of them little children, who do not know their right hand from their left?"

In this way God showed Jonah how merciful he was and how glad to help people who are sorry that they have been wicked and try to lead better lives. Neither would God destroy the people, just to prove to them that Jonah was a prophet, even tho He had said that He would do this.

It is always better to break a rash promise than to keep it.

NEW TESTAMENT

IN A little town near Jerusalem, there lived a man and wife, who had been good and obedient and kept the commandments of the Lord.

For many years they had lived together in perfect companionship and were now quite old.

The man, who was a priest, was named Zacharias. His wife, Elizabeth, belonged to the tribe of Levi. Unhappy they were for their home had never been blest with children. How they longed for just one child!

Morning and evening it was Zacharias' duty to burn incense at the altar in the Temple of the Lord, while the people prayed in the court outside.

One day, as he was attending his duties, an angel of the Lord appeared before him, standing on the right side of the Altar of Incense. When Zacha-

rias saw the Angel he was greatly troubled and fearful. The Angel spoke gently to him and said: "Fear not, Zacharias, I am a messenger from the Lord. Thy prayer has been heard, and thy wife, Elizabeth, shall bear thee a son and thou shalt call his name John."

Then the Angel went on to tell him that this child would bring them great joy and gladness, and that many people would also rejoice in his birth, because the boy, John, was to be great in the sight of the Lord. He would neither drink wine nor strong drink; he would be filled with the Spirit of Holiness even from his birth and would turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord, their God.

He said, too, that John would advance in spirit and power in the presence of the Lord, as did Elijah of old; that he would turn all hearts to righteousness, so that the people would be prepared for the coming of the Lord.

Zacharias asked the Angel how he was to know all this. The Angel answered, saying: "I am Gabriel, messenger of the Lord, who has sent me to talk to you and tell you the good news. You shall, however, be silent and unable to talk until these

events take place, because you have disbelieved my message. In due time the events I have foretold will come to pass."

In the town of Nazareth lived Mary, the cousin of Elizabeth. She was a direct descendent of King David. To her also came the Angel Gabriel, six months after he had appeared before Zacharias. Just as Zacharias was fearful when he saw the Angel, Mary, too, was troubled, until Gabriel comforted her. "Fear not, Mary," he said, "for thou hast found favor with God. Behold, thou shalt have a son and shall call his name, Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest. The Lord God shall give to Him the throne of David, and He shall reign in the house of Jacob throughout the ages and His reign shall never end. He shall be called the Son of God."

Then Mary understood that she was to be the mother of the Messiah. "I am the servant of the Lord, according to your statement," she exclaimed, "so let it be with me." Then the Angel left her.

Filled with wonder and joy, Mary made a hasty journey to the house of her cousin Elizabeth to tell her of the marvelous message that had come to her

"Blessed art thou among women," cried Elizabeth.

"My soul doth magnify the Lord," sang Mary.

Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three months, and while she was there Elizabeth's son was born.

When the day came for the child to be presented in the Temple, all the neighbors thought he would be called Zacharias after his father. But Elizabeth said, "No, he shall be called John." The people then said, "We shall ask his father." Zacharias wrote on a writing tablet, "His name is John."

As soon as he had written these words, his tongue was loosed and once again he could speak.

The people wondered what manner of child this would be. But Zacharias remembered that Gabriel had called his baby the second Elijah, and he knew he would be the forerunner of the Messiah, and would be called John the Baptist.

The Christ-Child in the Manger

ORE than two thousand years ago, a little Babe was born in Bethlehem. His noble life and the good He did will live forever in the minds of all who have followed Him. Even now, so long afterwards, the people still try to live the way He taught and to follow His footsteps; to be kind and loving and helpful.

At that time, a haughty man named Herod reigned in Jerusalem, but over him ruled the Roman Caesar. The Jews were a down-trodden people and hoped that a King of the Tribe of David would be born from among their people; that he would deliver them out of the hands of Herod and the Romans. The prophets had foretold of the coming of a Saviour.

The Roman Caesar ordered that all should return to the city of their birth, so that a proper count could be made. Among those journeying back to Bethlehem were Joseph and his wife Mary, both members of the Tribe of David. They had been living in Nazareth.

So many people had come to this little town of

JONAH'S FIRST MESSAGE

THE PROPHET JONAH'S CALL TO WICKED NINEVEH

Bethlehem that its only inn was crowded, and when Joseph and Mary arrived there was no room for them. The kind hearted inn-keeper allowed them to sleep in one of the stalls generally used for the cattle and asses of travelers, rather than to turn them away without shelter.

It was the custom in those days for the shepherds to watch over the flocks of sheep day and night, so that no harm should come to those dear little animals. One night, on a hillside near Bethlehem, some shepherds, while guarding their flocks, suddenly saw a strange and beautiful light shining in the heavens. Surrounded by this glorious light they saw an angel coming toward them saying, "Fear not, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ, the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you. Ye shall find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

You can imagine how astonished the shepherds were, for they had never seen anything like this before.

They decided to go to Bethlehem at once, and if

they found a Babe lying there in a manger, they would know that the Angel had spoken the truth. They hastened down the hillside in the direction of Bethlehem, guided always by the bright light of the star, afterwards known as the Star of Bethlehem. The light seemed always to travel before them and it directed their steps to the inn in Bethlehem.

They told their story to the inn-keeper and he directed them to the cattle stall where, earlier in the evening, he had told Joseph and Mary they might spend the night.

Sure enough they found Joseph and with him Mary, who was now a young mother. Close beside her was a little baby boy. Then the shepherds knew that the vision was real. Was it not just as the Angel had told them—a new-born babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger?

At first Joseph and Mary were startled at the arrival of the rough shepherds in the middle of the night; but when the shepherds told them about the glorious star they had seen, and the message of the Angel, then they knew that God had sent them.

Mary had already known that her little Babe was the King from Heaven for, some time before,

an Angel had come to her and told her she was to be the mother of the Saviour.

By this time all the other travelers at the inn were awakened, and wanted to know what it was all about, for the shepherds had gone forth shouting and praising God for what they had seen.

The good news was passed from one to another of the people of Bethlehem, and all who heard it wondered if the King of the Jews and Saviour of the world had been born in a cattle stall and had a manger for His cradle.

In this humble manner, over two thousand years ago, was our Saviour born. He was to become the greatest teacher the world has ever known. The good He taught is still bringing cheer and gladness to hearts in every land.

The Offering in the Temple

AN OLD man, whose name was Simeon, was then living in Jerusalem. For many years he had been waiting, and hoping that he would not die before the King came. God had promised that he should live to see the Saviour.

At last Simeon heard the whispering of God in his heart. He was told that he should go that very morning to the Temple service. Being a very good man, he was ready to obey without questioning. Quickly he prepared for the journey to the Temple, which was the house of worship of the Jews. It was a very beautiful building made of splendid marble and rare wood, with decorations of pure gold. The Jews had good reason to be very proud of this beautiful Temple.

As the old man drew near, he saw a young woman carrying a baby, and the man at her side had a basket in which were two live pigeons. It was the custom, when the first son was born, for the parents to bring him when he was a month old to the Temple. There they would present him to God, carrying

with them as a thank-offering to God, a lamb, if they were rich, but if they were poor, they would bring two live pigeons.

While Simeon was watching these people, God whispered something to him which made him hurry forward with a look of great joy in his aged eyes.

These people whom he saw were Mary and Joseph bringing the little Babe Jesus to the Temple. When Simeon came up to Mary he asked if he might take the Holy Child in his arms, and Mary handed the Babe to him and was surprised at the old man's excitement.

But Simeon was trembling, for he knew that he was holding the King in his arms. And in his happiness, he lifted up his eyes and thanked God and told Him he was now ready to die in peace, having lived to see the Saviour.

He continued to call in a loud voice so that all that were in the Temple might hear, that the Child had come as a light to all nations and as a special glory for God's chosen people, the Jews.

Among the worshippers was a good woman whose name was Anna, and who was more than a hundred years old. When she heard Simeon she,

too, thanked God, for she had been longing and praying that the King might come. With delight she in turn explained to the people that the son of Mary of Bethlehem, of the seed of David, was indeed the King.

Mary then took her Babe and she and Joseph went to the Woman's Court, for that was as far as was permitted for women to go, according to the rules of the Temple. Then Joseph took the Child, whom they called Jesus, as the Angel instructed, and carried Him through to the Men's Court, to the Priest, and there left his offering of pigeons.

Joseph brought the Child back to the waiting mother and together they went out of the Temple, and they all went quietly back to Bethlehem.

They had a journey of about six miles to go over the rough road, so it probably took them some time to get home. They had plenty of time to talk things over, for they felt very honored to think that God had really trusted them to take charge of the Saviour. But Mary and Joseph were very humble and did not boast of their precious treasure.

In Bethlehem they found a home where they lived quietly during Jesus' childhood.

The Visit of the Wise Men

ONE day a procession arrived at the Eastern Gate of Jerusalem. It was a caravan of three rich men, attended by many servants all riding on camels. They had traveled for many miles.

"Surely," thought the people, "such important looking folks must have come to visit King Herod."

But they soon found out that this was not so, for the men descended from their camels and began asking: "Where is He that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."

"There is no King of the Jews," muttered the people, for they had already forgotten about the little Babe that had come to Joseph and Mary.

But the Wise Men, or Magi, as they were called, continued to inquire, for they were surprised that no one seemed to know anything about this new King. They were determined not to go back to their own land until they had seen Him. This question was passed from one to the other until it finally reached the ears of King Herod.

He was very much surprised and exceedingly troubled to hear that there was another King beside himself. So he called the priests and learned men together and asked them about the King and where he was to be found. The priests then told King Herod that God had written in their Bible that the King of the Jews was to be born in Bethlehem.

Although King Herod had never heard of the birth of Jesus, he called the three wise men to him. Treating them with great respect, he told them to go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child, and if they should find a child of the royal tribe of David, they should come and tell him, so that he also could worship Him.

But the wicked king did not intend to worship Jesus, as his later conduct showed.

The wise men went to Bethlehem, and were guided to the place where Jesus was born by the wonderful star which they had followed ever since they started on their journey, for God had told them that this star meant that the King of the Jews was born.

Finally the star stayed just over the house where

MARY GREETS ELIZABETH AND THE INFANT JOHN

MARY AND THE INFANT JESUS

Jesus was. Eagerly they entered and there they found the Baby King. They knelt down in worship and gave Him presents of gold and precious things.

That night as they slept, God warned them that they were not to tell Herod they had found the King. Early the next morning they went back to their own country.

God spoke to Joseph in a dream saying, "Arise, and take the young Child and His mother, and flee into Egypt and be thou there until I bring you the word, for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him."

Joseph quickly awakened Mary and told her they must set forth on a long journey, at once. While Mary was making the necessary preparations, he saddled the ass, and through the night they hurried along the silent streets, waking the watchman that he might unbar the gate and let them go out of the city.

They had a long way to travel, strange to say it was the same journey that Joseph, the son of the patriarch Jacob, had taken when his brothers had sold him to the traders, and that Jacob had trav-

eled when Joseph, then the governor of Egypt, had sent the wagons for him.

In the meantime King Herod was anxiously waiting the return of the Wise Men, for he meant to send soldiers to kill this new King. But many days passed and then Herod learned that the three strangers had returned to their own country.

This made him exceedingly angry, so he sent soldiers to Bethlehem ordering them to enter the houses and kill every child under two years of age. You can imagine what great sorrow there was in Bethlehem over the killing of these poor innocent children. The whole town was in grief and no one could comfort the poor parents.

Meanwhile the Christ Child Jesus was safe in the care of Joseph and Mary who were traveling with Him into Egypt.

The Boyhood of Jesus

A YEAR passed by. Joseph, Mary and the Baby Jesus were living happily in Egypt. Then God spoke to Joseph in a dream, commanding him to take Jesus and Mary back to Palestine. Herod, the cruel King, was dead. Happy they were to once again return to their native land.

As the danger was over, there was now no need for them to flee by night. So they took their time and comfortably made their preparations for the return journey. They bade goodby to the friends they had made while in Egypt. I am sure many had learned to love the sweet and holy mother and her beautiful Boy. For when one is kind, thoughtful and loving, he is sure to make many friends.

They journeyed far north, into Nazareth, the village where Joseph and Mary had formerly lived and where Joseph had worked as a carpenter. Here they had many friends and relations.

We know very little about the childhood of Jesus. His home was in a very beautiful country, with plenty of fresh air and pure water and bright

sunshine. Mary and Joseph lived contentedly and Jesus' home was a happy one.

We can imagine the Boy watching his mother as she spun her thread, or baked cakes, going with her to the well, when He was a little older and stronger, carrying the jug of pure, clear, cold water back to the house for her, always glad to be of help.

In that country the oranges, lemons and figs grow in abundance, and we know that Jesus loved His mother dearly and we can picture Him joyfully bringing her these delicious, ripe fruits, thus expressing His love for her. Often He would watch Joseph sawing wood and making the many useful things that a good carpenter knows how to build.

When Jesus was old enough, Joseph taught Him, too, how to fashion wood, and as He was obedient and attentive, He learnt quickly. We are told that Jesus was a good carpenter.

On the Sabbath Day, He loved to go to the Synagogue and learn about His Father in Heaven.

What a joy it must have been for Him to stroll among the hills and talk with the shepherds, who soon became His friends. He would notice how they always went in front of their flocks, and called

their sheep by name. How they would always lead them where the grass was thick and fresh, and where the water was still and cool. For the little lambs are much too timid to drink from a rapid stream. Often the shepherds would gather the little lambs in their arms and pet them.

The Twenty-third Psalm, which I am sure He knew by heart, must have meant much to Him. In this Psalm we learn what it means to be a good shepherd.

This Boy, so full of kindness, loved the birds and flowers. His childhood was surely a very pleasant one. Jesus lived in Nazareth until He was twelve years old.

He Astonishes the Doctors

WHEN Jesus was twelve years old, he was farther advanced in thought than are our boys of today at that age. Always a diligent and studious Boy, He had become a good scholar, so that the neighbors already looked upon Him as a great student. We are told in the Gospel records that "He advanced in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man."

Each year in Spring, the Jews celebrated the Passover Feast. It was the habit of Joseph and Mary to journey to Jerusalem to attend the Feast. This was a great occasion, and now that Jesus had reached the age of twelve, He too was to make this journey.

How glad He must have been to know that the time had at last come when He was old enough to visit the wonderful city of Jerusalem, about which He had heard so much. At last He would see the glorious Temple, the high walls, the great gates and the King's palace.

Many, many people would be there, so many

that there would not be room enough for all of them at the inns. As the festival lasted a whole week, some lived in tents and others made sheltering places of the boughs of trees. This, I imagine, was very pleasant, as at that time of the year the weather was warm and sunshiny. They did not travel as you and I do today; the men walked, letting the women folks ride on the asses.

They were very happy for they sang and laughed and conversed with each other as they traveled. When Mary called to Jesus and pointed out to Him the first view of the wonderful city, how glad He must have been. Mary and Joseph were the only ones, in that vast multitude, who knew that this Boy was really the King of the Jews and of the whole world.

We do not know whether this little family found accommodations at an Inn during their stay in Jerusalem, or whether they, like many others, had to live in a tent. But, we have learned that they all went to the Temple and heard the services and saw the sacrifices.

Perhaps Jesus saw the King, and He would certainly see the Roman soldiers whom the Jews hated.

The festival being over, the people made ready to return to their various homes. Our little party started back to Nazareth.

When Mary and Joseph had gone some way on their homeward journey, they found that Jesus was not with them. Still, that did not worry them, for they thought surely He was with some of their relatives among the company. But when, after traveling a whole day, they still saw nothing of Him, they inquired if anyone had seen Him or knew of His whereabouts. On learning that no one had seen Him, they became much alarmed, for it was dangerous to travel in those days, and harm could easily come to a young boy.

There was nothing to do but to turn back and see if they could find Him, so they traveled back along the road to Jerusalem once more. It was almost impossible to find one boy in such a large and crowded city. Something seemed to tell them to go directly to the Temple, and sure enough, to their great astonishment, there sat the young Jesus, among the learned men, listening attentively to their wisdom, asking, and what was more astonishing, even answering their questions.

These men were amazed at the learning of this young lad, and could not understand how it could be possible that he knew so much. Evidently they had forgotten all about the Baby King that had been born in Bethlehem, and only thought of Jesus as a country boy from Nazareth.

You can well imagine Mary's delight at finding her Son alive and unharmed. She forgot for a moment that whatever He did was right, so she blamed Him for not having gone with them. Jesus said to her, "Did you not know that I must be about my Father's business?" Mary did not understand Him, but what He meant was that He must do the will of His Father, who is in Heaven.

However, when He saw the troubled expression on both Mary's and Joseph's face, He arose and at once left the learned men, going back to Nazareth, obedient to Mary and Joseph. He lived there for several years, and grew wise and strong. God and all the people of Nazareth loved Him.

John The Forerunner Baptizes Jesus

YOU have read about the birth of John, the son of Elizabeth and Zacharias. He was now a grown man, and Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea.

While John was in the desert, a message came to him from God, telling him to preach to the people. So he went about the whole country of the Jordan proclaiming to all who would listen that, if they would believe and be baptized, their sins would be forgiven them.

As it is recorded in the Bible the saying of Isaiah, the Prophet, "The voice of one calling in the wilderness." "Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight His paths." "All flesh shall see the salvation of the Lord."

John then told many things to the multitude as they came to him to be baptized, proving to them the greatness of God and His willingness to forgive sinners. The people asked him what they should do. He told them, among other things, to be charitable and to give to the poor, to do violence to no man, neither to accuse anyone falsely, to

be content with their wages. The people listened carefully to all of his sayings, for they could tell that he was a very good and wise man.

Having heard that the Christ was to come, they wondered among themselves whether he could really be Christ or not. But John soon gave them the information that they were waiting to hear, for he said to them, "I indeed baptize you with water, but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to loose. He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire." Then they knew that he was telling them of the Christ.

In order to teach the people the lesson of humility, Jesus, Himself, came to the Jordan, to be baptized by John. While He was standing in the water praying, the heavens opened and a dove came flying toward Him, finally resting on his head. Then the people heard a voice saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

John told the people their faults and pointed out to them their wrong doings, at the same time telling them how to mend their ways, and to be more pleasing in the sight of God.

Some were very glad for the lessons that he

taught them, and went their way with hearts full of repentance, promising and determined to be better. But there were some people among the crowd who were proud and haughty and these resented his rebukes. Through their efforts, John the Baptist was thrown into prison.

The Wilderness Temptation

AFTER leaving the Jordan, Jesus, full of the Spirit of God, went into the wilderness to think and to pray. He remained there forty days, during which time He ate nothing.

When He became hungry, the Devil came to Him and said: "If Thou be the Son of God, command these stones that they may be made bread." But Jesus knew that He was only being tempted, so He thoughtfully answered in the words of the Scriptures, "It is written, thou shalt not live by bread alone, but by every word of God." By this Jesus meant that if we keep the commandments we will be taken care of. Again the Devil tried to tempt Jesus. This time He took Him up on a high mountain and pointed out to Him all the imperial kingdoms. "I will give you all this power," said the Devil to Jesus, "and the splendor of them, for it has been entrusted to me, and I can give it to whoever I will; if you therefore will serve me, it shall be yours." For the second time Jesus understood that the Devil was tempting Him, trying to make Him

believe that worldly possessions would make Him powerful. Jesus answered the Devil in this way, "Get thee behind me, Satan, for it is written, thou shalt worship the Lord thy God and Him only shalt thou serve." Again Jesus had overcome the Devil.

Even then the Devil was not satisfied, and tried once more to persuade Jesus to depart from the right way. This time he carried Jesus to Jerusalem and placed Him upon the battlement of the Temple and said to Him, "If thou call thyself the Son of God, cast thyself down from hence," and the Devil added, quoting from the Bible, for he thought surely that then Jesus would think it was the word of God, "for, it is written He shall give His Angels charge over Thee, to keep Thee, and in their hands they shall bear Thee up, lest at any time Thou dash Thy foot against a stone." Jesus was ever alert and for the third time He recognized the cunningness of the Devil in trying to tempt Him by using the words of Scripture. Quietly He answered him, "It is said, thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God." The Devil, seeing that he could not tempt Jesus, no matter how hard he tried, departed from Him, until another opportunity should present itself.

Jesus then went back to Galilee, and His reputation spread throughout the neighborhood. He taught in the synagogues with the approval of all.

It was at this time that Jesus entered the Temple on the Sabbath and standing up before the learned people, He read from the book of Isaiah, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, by which He has appointed me to tell good news to the poor; He has sent me to heal the broken-hearted; to proclaim freedom to the enslaved and to restore sight to the blind; to set at liberty those who are depressed; to proclaim the year honored by the Lord." Having read thus far, He handed the roll back to the attendant.

Christ's First Miracle

A FEW days later there was a wedding in the town of Cana, which is in Galilee. Mary, the mother of Jesus, was present. Jesus, together with his five friends who were now his disciples, had also been invited. When they arrived it was already late in the evening, the festivities almost over and the refreshments not so plentiful.

As it is considered inhospitable, in fact a calamity, in the East should there be insufficient food and drink for all the guests, Mary was quite disturbed. So she went to Jesus and said to Him, "They have no more wine." "What is that to you and me, Mother; my time is not yet come." Mary knew that Jesus always had a reason for everything He said, though perhaps sometimes she did not fully understand Him. However, she turned to the servants and said to them, "Whatever He asks you to do, let it be done."

Although Jesus had not been willing to turn the stones to bread for His own use, He was now ready to prove the power of God to others. Look-

THE WISE MEN WORSHIP THE INFANT JESUS

HIS MOTHER FINDS JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

ing up, He saw in the doorway six water jars. It was the custom to pour water out of these jars into basins in order to wash the dust from the feet of the guests. The jars were now empty. "Fill the jars with water," said Jesus, and accordingly the servants filled them to the brim. He then told them to pour out the contents of the jars and to take what they had drawn out to the governor of the feast.

Before their astonished eyes, the water had been turned into wine. Full of wonder, they carried it to the host. When he had tasted it, he called the bridegroom and said to him, "Every man, at the beginning, doth set forth good wine, then that which is worse, but thou hast kept the good wine until now."

This was the first miracle that Jesus performed and his disciples, witnessing it, knew that they, indeed, were seeing the proof of the power of God which Jesus had promised, and they believed in Him.

After that Jesus and His mother and the disciples went to Capernaum and remained there for a few days.

The Miraculous Draught of Fishes

JESUS had been in the wilderness for forty days. During this time, John the Baptist was preaching to the people. By now, the whole country was stirred with his sayings, so that the priests sent messengers from Jerusalem to Bethlehem to inquire about his work. "Who are you?" they demanded. "I am not the Christ," John answered. "Art thou Elijah?" they then asked him. "I am not," he said. Then they demanded him to tell them who he was, so that they could take the answer back to Jerusalem. "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, as said the prophet Isaiah," he told them.

They then wanted to know, if he were not the Christ or Elijah, why he baptized the people. He explained to them that he baptized with water, but that there was One among them, mightier than he. This Man, although He came after him, was preferred before him. The messengers could not understand him at all so they went their way.

The next day, Jesus came to Bethlehem, and when John saw Him, he exclaimed, "Behold the

Lamb of God, that taketh away the sins of the world."

Once when John was standing with his followers, John the son of Zebedee and Andrew, son of Jonas, both fishermen, he again saw Jesus. Once more he exclaimed to the people, "Behold the Lamb of God." The people knew that a lamb without blemish had always been used by the Jews as a sacrifice to atone for sin. John and Andrew, who had been earnestly listening to the preaching of John, now knew that Jesus must be the Messiah who had come to save the world from sin. They went at once to Jesus. "What seek you?" He asked them. "Master," they answered Him, "where dwellest thou?" "Come and see," and they followed Him.

All day long they listened eagerly to every word that Jesus said to them, and they were convinced that they had found the Christ. This filled them with joy, for they had been listening to the prophecies of John and waiting patiently for them to come true.

Andrew went out to look for his brother Simon to tell him what had happened. "We have found the Christ," he cried eagerly, and led Simon to

Jesus. Jesus already loved these men for he recognized how honest they were. They were very simple men, uneducated and from the lower ranks of life, fishermen by trade. That is just why Jesus chose them, for He did not want rich, noble, or even clever men. What He did need was young men with true hearts, who would willingly and obediently do as He bade them.

Jesus then went down to the shore and getting into a boat, He spoke to the people. He told them of the Kingdom of Heaven and what it meant to do the will of God, now upon the earth. When Jesus had finished preaching, He said to Peter, the man who owned the boat, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets." Peter answered, "Master, we have toiled all day and all night and have taken nothing; nevertheless at Thy word, I will let down the net." Peter and his brother Andrew then lowered the net into the sunlit lake, although they knew it was not the best time to catch fish. Suddenly, to their astonishment, the net became so full of fish that Peter and Andrew could not pull it in. They called James and John to come and help them. The four men managed to drag in the net. Never

before had these fishermen seen such a catch of fish. Peter, in humility, knelt down before Jesus and said, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O, Lord." Jesus saw that these men were the very ones he needed as His disciples, for He knew that they would be His true friends. "Do not fear," He said, "but follow me and hereafter you shall be fishers of men."

Peter, Andrew, James and John all gave up their trade as fishermen and followed their new Master. Later, these four men became Jesus' special friends among all His disciples. Jesus also chose eight other men to follow Him and become His disciples. Their names were Philip, Nathaniel, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon the Canaanite, Thaddeus, and Judas Iscariot, who later became His betrayer.

These men He taught. Then He sent them far and wide, two by two, and told them to preach the gospel and perform miracles in His name.

He Heals Many at Capernaum

JESUS and His disciples then went to Capernaum, which was also in Galilee. Every Sabbath He would talk to the people about His wonderful doctrine.

One day, Simon, now called Peter, took Jesus to his home where there was great trouble. His mother-in-law lay sick with the fever, and Peter asked Jesus to help him. When Jesus reached the house, He went into the room where the sick woman was lying. Lovingly he laid His hands on her. Immediately the fever left her and she was well. To show her gratitude, she got up at once and waited on Peter and his guests, serving them refreshments.

It was not long before the neighbors heard about this woman being healed. Thinking of their own friends who were sick, they wondered if He could heal them also. As soon as evening was come, and the sun sent a ray of glory over Galilee, the people came in crowds to Peter's house, bringing with them their sick friends. Some were lame, some blind, some deaf and some were even so sick

that they had to be carried on cots or mattresses. Jesus healed every one of them. Can you imagine the astonishment and joy that must have come that night to the people of Capernaum? At last they returned to their homes, leaving Jesus and His disciples in peace.

Long before daylight, however, Jesus arose and quietly left the house. He wandered to the hillside, away from the crowded city, into the open country, where the air was fresh and fragrant, where He could be alone with His Father in Heaven. Jesus spent much time in contemplation and prayer.

By the time Peter arose from his bed, the people were already coming to his house and asking for Jesus. Peter, missing Him, wondered where He could be. Four of the disciples, Peter, Andrew, James and John went out to look for Him. Knowing the Master so well, Peter went at once to the hillside, and there indeed he found Jesus. When Jesus saw him coming, He met him with a smile of welcome.

Peter anxiously cried out, "All men seek for Thee." Jesus told Peter that He must not stay much longer in Capernaum for duty called Him

to go to other towns also, so that all might have a chance of hearing His message.

Jesus knew that He had much to do, with but a short time in which to work, for the period of Jesus' ministry was but three years. He went His way, preaching in the synagogues in the little towns of Galilee.

Jesus Calms the Storm

MANY of the towns in which Jesus preached were by the Sea of Galilee. One day after He had been talking to the people on the shore, He said to His disciples, "Let us go across to the other side of the lake, so that we may be away from the crowd and can have peace and quiet."

While Jesus was waiting for Peter to get the boat ready, a man came up to Him and said, "Master, I will follow Thee, whithersoever Thou goest." But Jesus answered, "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man does not know where to lay his head." You see, Jesus knew that some of the people followed Him because they thought that the power He had would make Him a great and rich man, and that if they followed Him, they too, would become great and rich. He wanted to make it clear to them that such was not His purpose in life. His mission was to be a friend to the poor and the depressed, and to teach men and women about their Father in Heaven.

As the boat was now ready, His disciples urged

Him to get in that they might start, so that their Master could depart from the throng and rest. They had not gone very far before Jesus fell into a deep sleep.

This little lake was partly surrounded by hills and frequently violent storms came over it. One of these storms was upon them now, so that their little boat began to toss and pitch violently. Although the fishermen were skilled in the managing of the boat, when the waves dashed over the sides they became very fearful lest they would be swamped and they and their Master be drowned. Amidst the turmoil, Jesus slept quietly, although the spray dashed over Him and the winds became colder and colder. Naturally, the disciples were very much amazed that their Master should sleep through such a terrific storm, especially when they were so fearful themselves. At last, too terrified to remain quiet any longer, they awakened Him by crying out, "Master, carest Thou not that we perish?" Jesus opening His eyes saw the storm, and standing upright in the boat, He commandingly rebuked the wind and said, "Peace—be still." To the great astonishment of the disciples, the wind obeyed the

Lord of all things, and even the troubled waters became still and there was a great calm. Jesus then turned to them and gently said, "Why are you so fearful; why is it that you have no faith?" You see He thought after all He already taught them, they should have more trust in God and have known that He always takes care of His children. One who has this faith need never fear. But even after hearing Jesus speak to them, they still feared, and whispered to themselves anxiously, "What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?"

He Restores the Dead Daughter of Jairus

JESUS did not stay away from the city long because He knew that the people were anxiously awaiting His return. Those on shore must have seen the storm and marvelled at the sudden calm. They soon heard what had happened, and this made them more anxious than ever to be near the Master.

As Jesus reached the shore, He found a great throng awaiting Him. Among the crowd was a man named Jairus, who was a ruler in the synagogue. He had heard Jesus teaching and with wonder had watched how He had healed the sick. He also had noticed how patient and kind He was, and how lovingly He always smiled on little children.

Now this man Jairus, and his wife, were in great trouble, for their only daughter, who was twelve years old, lay dying in their home. They had come to ask the Master to help them. When Jesus was again among their midst, Jairus flung himself down at His feet and cried, "My little daughter lieth at the point of death. I pray Thee come and lay Thy hands on her that she may live." Jesus, ever ready to

help, said that He would be glad to go to the little girl. He was very grateful to find that this man had such faith in His power to heal.

As the crowd was great, they were compelled to walk very slowly, which delay made the poor, unhappy father very anxious. There was a poor woman in that crowd who had been ill for twelve long years. She had spent all her money on doctors, but to no avail. She was too timid to ask this mighty Man to help her, but so great was her faith that she thought if she could but touch the hem of His garments, she would be made well. So she gently forced her way through the crowd until she came quite close to Him. Then she reached out her hand and touched the garment of Jesus.

Immediately she became strong and well. Trembling with excitement, she tried to slip back in the crowd. Jesus turned and said, "Who touched me?" It surprised the disciples that He should ask this question when the crowd was continually touching Him. But Jesus sensed the difference, He knew that this woman had touched Him with prayer in her heart, and faith that He could heal her. In answer to His question the woman came and

knelt down before Him and told Him the truth. Then Jesus said to her, "Daughter, be of good cheer; thy faith has made thee whole. Go in peace."

In the meantime, poor Jairus was getting more and more anxious and now he saw a messenger come towards them. As he came up to where Jairus was, the messenger said, "Thy daughter is dead. Why troublest thou the Master?" Jairus was filled with grief and disappointment, but Jesus who had heard the messenger said to him, "Be not afraid, only believe." Jesus made it very plain to the people that he could only help those who believed in Him. Jairus did have faith, so he led Jesus to his home where his little girl lay dead.

Already the curious crowd had gathered in front of Jairus' house and the women were weeping and wailing and crying out in loud voices. As Jesus entered the house, he quietly asked them, "Why do ye thus mourn and weep? The child is not dead, but sleepeth." But the people were ignorant of Jesus' power and they laughed at His words, not believing that He could bring the child back to life.

The Master then commanded that everyone should be put out of the house, and He entered the

room where the dead child was lying, allowing only the father and mother of the child and Peter, James and John, his disciples, to enter with Him. Going up to the child, He took her hand, knowing as the Son of God, He could conquer death.

"Little maid," He said, "I say unto thee, arise." At the Master's command the little girl obediently opened her eyes, and arose, quite well and strong. How quickly were the grief and sorrow changed to joy and thanksgiving, and how humble the people must have felt at this added proof of the power of God. Jesus told the parents to give the child something to eat and He left their house.

He Miraculously Feeds Five Thousand

ONE day when the disciples had returned from a journey into a neighboring town, they came to Jesus and told Him all that they had done, how they had preached the Gospel and had performed healings everywhere. Herod also had heard of all that was done and was greatly perplexed.

Jesus then took His disciples into a desert place, which was near the city of Bethsaida. When the people knew where they had gone, great crowds followed. Jesus did not turn them away, but spoke of the Kingdom of God and healed all that were in need of help.

One of the most beautiful traits of Jesus was His compassion.

The sun began to set and everyone knew that it would soon be dark. The disciples were growing impatient and they said to Jesus, "This is a desert place. It is growing late. Send the people away that they may go into the villages and buy themselves bread, for they have nothing to eat." Jesus answered, "Give ye them to eat." The command

JESUS REBUKES THE TEMPTER

THE MIRACLE AT THE WEDDING IN CANA

amazed the disciples greatly. "We have but five loaves and two fishes, how then can we feed 5000 men, except we should go and buy meat for all these people?" Jesus' quiet answer of assurance to His disciples was, "Make them sit down by hundreds and by fifties in companies."

So all the people sat down as they were bid, and although they were many, there was no crowding or commotion. Jesus then took the five loaves and fishes, looking up to Heaven, He blessed them and broke the bread and divided the fishes. He then gave to the disciples telling them to feed the multitude. Although it would seem impossible to feed 5000 people with only 5 loaves and 2 fishes, each disciple was amazed that his portion lasted until he had fed every one in his group. In fact, each one had as much as he could possibly eat. The abundance was manifested so clearly that when all had been satisfied, the disciples gathered up enough fragments to fill 12 baskets.

Although this was strange and marvelous, the people were quick to recognize the wonder of it and in their gratitude cried out, "This is of a truth that Prophet that should come into the world." The

people then went to their respective homes and Jesus and His disciples were at last alone.

Jesus then asked them, "Whom say the people that I am?" They answered, "Some say John the Baptist, some say Elias, and others say that one of the old prophets is risen again." Jesus then said, "But who say ye that I am?" The ever impetuous Peter answered, "Thou are the Christ, the Son of the Living God."

Jesus then told His disciples to go back to the town, as He wished to be alone, that He might pray to His Father. After a little while Jesus turned and looked down on the lake. He saw that the boat, in which were His disciples, was not making any headway, as the wind was blowing straight against it from the west. Jesus knew that the disciples needed Him. The disciples looked up and saw Jesus walking on the surface of the lake, coming to them over the wide expanse of water. They were quite terrified at first, thinking He must be a spirit. They then heard His voice calling to them, "Be of good cheer, it is I, be not afraid."

Recognizing His voice, they were reassured and Peter cried out, "Lord, if it be Thou, bid me come

to Thee on the water!" And he said, "Come." Peter got out of the ship and started to walk toward Jesus on the water and all of a sudden he became afraid and began to sink. Fearfully he cried, "Lord, save me." Jesus stretched forth His hand and catching hold of Peter, said to him reproachfully, "Oh, thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?" When Jesus and Peter went back into the ship, the wind ceased and all worshipped Jesus saying, "Of a truth, Thou art the Son of God."

"Who Is My Neighbor?"

AT THIS time in the career of Jesus He chose seventy more disciples. He told them just what He expected them to do, telling them to go two and two into every city and place whither He Himself would come, to preach to the people what He had taught the disciples.

While He was thus talking, a certain lawyer thinking he was putting Jesus to the test, asked Him, "Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus in His turn asked him, "What is written in the law, how do you understand it?" For He knew that this man should be able to answer his own question. "Thou shalt love the Lord, thy God, with all Thy heart, with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind, and thy neighbor as thyself," answered the lawyer. "Thou hast answered right," said Jesus, "this do and thou shalt live." But the lawyer in order to justify himself then asked Jesus, "But who is my neighbor?" Then Jesus answered by telling one of his beautiful and instructive stories called parables, for that

THE GOOD SAMARITAN ON THE JERICHO ROAD

was His peculiar way of teaching, allowing His listeners to get the moral themselves. This is the story He told the lawyer:

"The road from Jericho to Jerusalem is a very rough and dangerous one. One day a certain man, traveling this road, was attacked by robbers who stripped him and wounded him and took all he had, leaving him half dead on the side of the road.

"The poor man lay there all alone, for there were few travelers on this lonely road. By and by a priest came over the brow of the hill, but when he saw the poor man lying there all torn and bleeding, he passed by on the other side so as not to be delayed in reaching his journey's end. Presently a Levite came by, he, too, was supposed to be a good man and his duty in life was to help the priests in the temple service; but when he saw the man he also passed by on the other side, not caring to take the trouble to help him.

"Later in the evening a Samaritan came along riding on a ass. Now the Jews had no use for the Samaritans, as they were not supposed to be good people. So if a priest and a Levite would not help, one would hardly expect a Samaritan to do any-

thing. But the Samaritan looked on the poor traveler with pity in his heart, for he thought how cold he must be with his clothes all torn and his wounds bleeding. He felt sure that he would die if left there all night. So he got off the beast he was riding, and went up to him and bound his wounds as best he could, pouring oil and wine upon them. Then he lifted the man on his own beast, and took him to the inn, caring for him all night.

The next morning, as he had to be on his way, he gave the innkeeper some money and asked him to look after the traveler until he was well again. He told the innkeeper that whatever it was necessary to spend more than he had given him, he would repay him the next time he passed that way."

"Which of these three," asked Jesus, "do you think was neighbor to the man who fell among thieves?" The lawyer answered, "The one who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said unto him, "Go thou and do likewise."

John the Baptist Beheaded

ABOUT this time Herod heard of the miracles Jesus was performing. He was greatly worried, fearing Jesus would be greater than he. He was troubled in mind too, for he had been the cause of John the Baptist's death.

In his fear, he said to his companions, "This is John the Baptist, he must have risen from the dead, therefore he is able to do these mighty works." Herod had arrested John and put him into prison, because John had told him that is was unlawful for him to have Herodias who had been his brother's wife. This had angered Herod so that he would have had John killed, had he not been afraid of the people, for they honored John as a prophet.

On Herod's birthday a great entertainment took place. There was feasting, dancing and singing. Herodias had a daughter whose name was Salome; she was a very wonderful and graceful dancer. On this festive occasion she was asked to dance before Herod and his guests. Herod was very much delighted with her dancing and being

drunk with wine, he promised her, with an oath, that he would give her whatever she would ask of him. Salome's mother, Herodias had anticipated that Herod in his delight would grant some kind of a favor to the dancer, so she had instructed her beforehand, if he should make such a promise, just what answer she should make. Salome, carrying out her mother's instructions, said to Herod, "Give me, here on a dish, the head of John the Baptist." The king was horrified and sorry, but he could not go back on his word, having sworn to keep his promise. So he commanded one of his servants to go to the prison and behead John and to bring his head on a dish to the girl. This was done and Salome, taking the head from the servant, handed it to her mother. Herodias then felt avenged for the charge that John had put upon her.

The disciples of John the Baptist then came and took his body and buried it. And they told Jesus what had happened.

Jesus Gives Sight to a Man Born Blind

THE more good that Jesus did to the people, the more jealous the Pharisees and some of the Jews became. They tried in every way to find fault with Him and to prove His miracles were cheats.

One day as Jesus was leaving the temple, He noticed a man sitting by the wayside begging. The man was blind. Everyone knew that he had been born that way. Jesus' disciples asked Him, "Master, who sinned, this man, or his parents, that he should be born blind?" Jesus answered them, "Neither did this man sin nor his parents. But he is so, that the working of God may be displayed through him." Whereupon, Jesus spit upon the ground and made clay with which He anointed the eyes of the blind man, saying, "Go, wash yourself in the pool of Siloam." Obediently the man stumbled along until he came to the pool. Upon reaching it, he bent down and with the cool water washed the clay from his eyes. To his great joy and astonishment he could see. How wonderful the blue sky must have looked to him, and the peo-

ple and the trees. His excitement caused many people to turn and look at him. Then they saw that a miracle had been performed but in their anger against Jesus, they tried not to believe it. Some said, "Is not this the man that sat and begged?" While others said, "It is not he, but one like him." But the man gazing at them all in bewilderment said, "I am he." The people then asked him to explain to them how it had happened. The man had not seen Jesus, for when he had returned, seeing, Jesus was no longer there. He told the people, "A man named Jesus put clay on my eyes and told me to go and wash in the Pool of Siloam. I did as I was bid and received my sight." They then asked him where Jesus was, but he said he did not know. The people made him go with them to the Pharisees, to whom they told what had occurred.

The Pharisees were very angry and they made him repeat to them the manner in which he had received his eyesight. The man repeated to them just what he had told the crowd. Still they would not believe, so they called his parents and asked them. His parents were afraid to tell the whole

truth, for they had heard that if any one dared to say that Jesus was the Messiah or King, he would never be allowed to go into the synagogue again.

Although the parents must have been very happy that their son could now see, they were nevertheless filled with fear and sorrow. "We know that this is our son," they answered, "and that he was born blind, but by what means he now seeth, we know not. He is of age, ask him, he shall speak for himself."

Again the Jews tried to persuade the man to say that Jesus did not heal him and that this good man must be a sinner. He became very indignant and said to them, "I say that He is a prophet, and not a wicked man. How I was healed, I do not know, but one thing I do know, that whereas I was blind, now I see. Why, this is a wonderful thing, for when have you ever heard before of one having his eyes opened that was born blind?"

This angered the people still more, to think that the beggar should presume to tell them, so they cast him out.

The Beautiful Story of the Prodigal Son

IN ORDER to teach the people about the love the Father in Heaven had for them, Jesus told them many beautiful stories. The one about the prodigal son shows them how great was the Father's love, even tho they had turned away from Him.

A certain man had two sons and to them he divided equally the share of money that was to be theirs. The younger son, intent on having a good time with his share, wandered far from home, eating and drinking hilariously with people he met and, on the whole, living a riotous life. Before long his money was all spent. At this time there arose a famine in the land, and the friends whom he had wined and dined when he was rich now would neither come near him nor help him. He was in dire want and distress.

Realizing that he must get to work, he humbly asked a man if there was anything that he could do. This man sent him into his field to tend to his pigs. The poor young man was so hungry then, he even ate the husks intended for the pigs, as no one gave him any food.

One day, as he sat watching the pigs, hungry and miserable and sad, he began to think of his beautiful home and of his kind and loving father. He then realized how foolish and wicked he had been, for had not his father's servants plenty to eat and to spare, while he was starving?

As he was thus thinking, it was revealed to him what was the right thing for him to do. "I will rise and go unto my father and will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son; make me as one of thy hired servants.'"

Thereupon he set forth on his long weary journey back to his father's house. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion on him, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.

The young man knelt at his father's feet and cried: "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before thy sight, and am no longer worthy to be called thy son." His father would let him say no more but called to his servants, "Bring forth the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet, and bring hither the

fatted calf and kill it. Let us eat and be merry, for this, my son, was dead and is alive again, he was lost and is found." And they began to be merry.

The elder son, who had stayed at home with his father, had been working in the field and as he was coming toward the house he heard the music and merry making. Inquiring of one of the servants what it all meant, he was told: "Thy brother is come and thy father hath killed the fatted calf because he hath received him safe and sound." This made the elder son angry and, I fear, a bit jealous, for he went to his father and said to him: "Lo, these many years I served thee, yet thou never gavest me a kid that I might make merry with my friends. But as soon as this, thy son, was come which has devoured thy living, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf." His father gently answered him, "Thou art ever with me and all that I have is thine. It was meet that we should make merry and be glad, for thy brother was dead and is alive again. He was lost and is found."

This story teaches us that it is never too late to repent and turn away from wrong-doing to the loving care and protection of your parents.

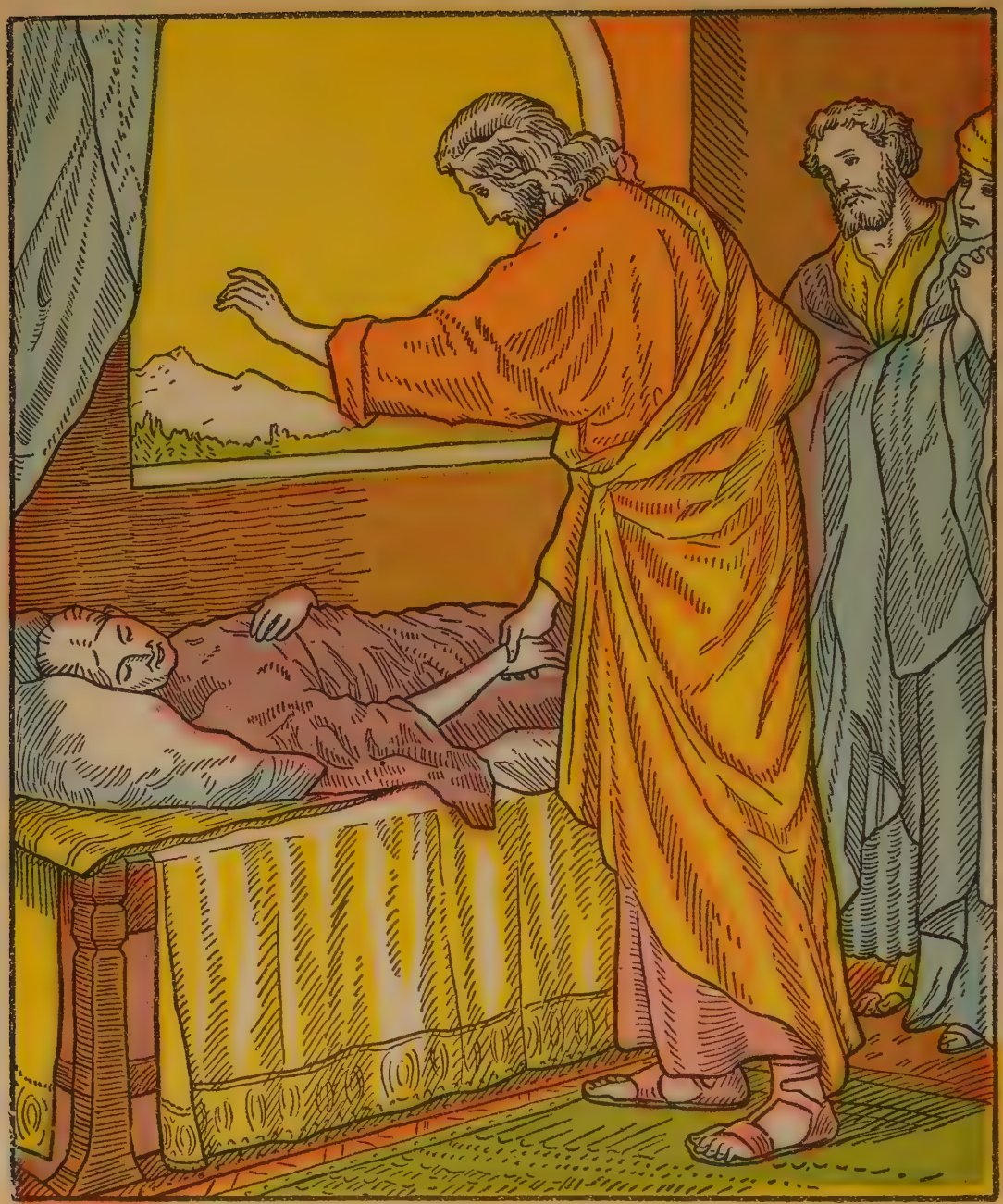
How Jesus Loves Little Children

IT WAS hard for the Jews to realize that Jesus was not trying to gain material power, or to be a king, as they understood the word king to mean. Even His disciples, who should have understood Him better, had this wrong idea.

One day as they were returning to Capernaum, Jesus heard them quarreling together. They were discussing which of them would be greatest when, as they expected, Jesus became a King. When at length they reached the house where they were staying, Jesus asked them: "What is it that ye disputed among yourselves, by the way?" You can imagine their embarrassment at having been detected in even thinking such a thing. They were too ashamed to answer.

In the house at that time, there was a little child who was playing happily. Jesus called him and took him on his knees. Then He said to His disciples, "Whosoever shall receive one of these children in my name, receiveth Me, and whosoever shall receive Me, receiveth not Me but Him that

CALLING THE FIRST DISCIPLES



PETER'S WIFE'S MOTHER HEALED

sent Me." By this Jesus meant that true greatness was shown by humility and that being kind to a little child was the same as being kind to Him or to His Father in Heaven.

At another time when Jesus was preaching to the people near the river Jordan some of the women heard that the great Master was fond of little children. While He was preaching they brought their children, forcing their way through the crowd so as to be near Him. They then asked Jesus to put His hands on them and bless them. The disciples did not like this intrusion and they tried to drive the children away. But Jesus was displeased at this, for He knew it was not a loving thing to do, so holding out His arms He cried: "Suffer the little children to come unto Me and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of God." Then he blessed the children one by one.

He Calls Dead Lazarus Back to Life

IN BETHANY lived a man named Lazarus, with his two sisters, Martha and Mary. They were friends of Jesus, so that when Lazarus became very ill, the sisters sent word to Jesus, telling Him that the man He loved was very sick. When Jesus received this message, He knew that Lazarus' sickness was unto death and that the time had come for Him to perform a still greater miracle than had yet been shown the people. Notwithstanding this, Jesus remained two days longer where He was. After that He said to His disciples, "Let us go to Bethany again."

This greatly terrified His disciples for they knew that it would be very dangerous for their Master to return where only a short while ago the people wanted to stone Him. They tried to persuade Him to remain where it was safe, but to no avail, for Jesus answered them saying, "Our friend Lazarus sleepeth, but I go that I may wake him out of sleep." Then said His disciples, "Lord, if he sleepeth he shall do well." So Jesus spoke to them a little plainer and said, "Lazarus is dead and I am glad for your

sakes that I was not there, to the intent that ye may believe. Nevertheless, let us go unto him."

As the disciples were ever obedient, they made ready to go wherever Jesus commanded them. Even tho they knew they were running a terrible risk by going to Bethany, for only two miles from there was Jerusalem where the Scribes and Pharisees and priests were plotting to trap Jesus and put Him to death, they did as Jesus requested. They felt that if their Master was to be killed they were willing to be killed with Him.

When Jesus was but a short distance from the house, Martha, learning of His arrival, came to meet Him, but Mary remained at home. Martha was weeping and she cried out to Jesus, "Lord, if Thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. But I know that even now, whatsoever Thou wilt ask of God, God will give it Thee." Quietly Jesus said to her, "Thy brother shall rise again." Martha did not understand Him so she answered, "I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection on the last day." But Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life, he that believeth in Me, though he be dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever

liveth and believeth in Me, shall never die. Believest thou this?"

And Martha said, "Yea, Lord, I believe that Thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world." Jesus then asked kindly after Mary, so Martha hurried back to the house and whispered to her sister, "The Master is come, and calleth for thee." Quickly Mary arose and went to where Martha had left Jesus. She flung herself down at the feet of Jesus and cried out: "Lord, if Thou hadst been here, my brother had not died." When Jesus saw her weeping and saw also the grief of the Judeans who had followed her, he was very much troubled.

"Where have ye lain him?" He asked them. They said to Him, "Come and see." The people then said, "How He loved him. Could not He who opened the eyes of the blind have caused that even this man should not have died?"

Lazarus had now been dead four days. They had buried him in a cave in the hillside and a stone had been rolled up against the entrance. Jesus commanded that the stone be rolled away. All were watching Him as He lifted up His eyes and

said, "Father, I thank Thee that Thou hast heard Me, and I know that Thou hearest Me always. But because of the people that stand by, I said it, that they may believe that Thou hast sent Me." After this He said in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" And he who had been dead came forth, wrapped in grave clothes. Then Jesus said, "Loose him, and let him go."

After seeing this wonderful miracle many of the people believed in Him. But there were those among the crowd that would not allow themselves to see good and those hurried off to tell the Pharisees what Jesus had done, so that they could find more jealous reasons to plan His death.

His Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

IN THE Temple at Jerusalem the people were again celebrating the Feast of the Passover, as they had done when Jesus traveled there with Mary and Joseph, when He was twelve years old.

Jesus was now thirty-three years old, and everyone was now talking about Him and His wonderful teaching and deeds. Because of the jealous anger of the people against Him, they wondered if He would be brave enough to proclaim openly that He was the Son of God, knowing as He did, that the people were plotting to kill Him. But Jesus did not fear; He only knew that He must do His Father's will. So accordingly, He told His disciples that they would go into Jerusalem.

When they got as far as the Mount of Olives, Jesus said to His disciples, "Go into the village and there you will find an ass tied and a colt with her, loose them and bring them unto Me." Furthermore he said to them, "If any man should ask you why do you loose them, say unto them 'because the Lord hath need of them.'"

The disciples went to the village and sure enough they found the ass with her colt, just as their Master had told them they would, so they brought them to Jesus. Putting some of their clothes on the ass' back, for a saddle, they set Jesus upon it. By this time great crowds had gathered and when they saw that Jesus was really going to ride into Jerusalem, the excitement and joy knew no bounds. Now they thought He was indeed going to proclaim Himself King of the Jews, thus freeing them from the Romans. In their enthusiasm they flung their clothes down for the ass to tread on, likewise branches of palm trees and cried out, "Hosanna to the Son of David. Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest."

As Jesus neared the city the people heard the tumult and came out to meet Him, asking each other in their excitement, "Who is this?" The answer came back joyfully, "This is Jesus, the Prophet of Nazareth and Galilee."

The Pharisees on hearing this were filled with anger and asked Jesus to rebuke His disciples, but Jesus answered, "I tell you that if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out."

HIS TRIUMPHAL ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM

When Jesus and His disciples passed the summit of the Mount of Olives they could see the white and gold roofs of the Temple. This made Jesus very sorrowful, for He knew that in spite of the many miracles He had done before them, yet they believed not in Him. Jesus then went into the Temple, the people still shouting "Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord!"

The priests were very much displeased but Jesus did not fear them. He cast the people out of the Temple, who were buying and selling and overthrew the tables of the money changers and the seats of them that sold doves, saying unto them, "It is written 'My house shall be called the house of prayer' but ye have made it a den of thieves." After this He healed many that were blind, lame and sick. Every day that week, He preached in the Temple, telling the people that He was the Son of God, sent from Heaven, but not to be the King of their country, but King of their hearts.

One morning as He was returning into the city from Bethany where he lodged, he became hungry. Seeing a fig tree by the roadside not far away, He

went up to it, but found nothing growing on it but leaves. He said to it, "Ever from now, let no more fruit grow upon you." And it immediately dried up. He was teaching the lesson to His disciples that everyone and every thing must be of some use in the world.

When the disciples marvelled how quickly the fig tree had dried up, He said to them, "If ye have faith and doubt not, ye shall say unto the mountains, be thou removed and be cast into the sea, and it shall be done." Adding, "And whatsoever ye ask, in prayer, believing, ye shall receive."

Jesus taught them many things, speaking in parables, and when the chief priests and Pharisees heard Him, they knew that He spoke about themselves, about their insincerity and deceit, and this made them very angry. But when they sought to molest Him they dared not, fearing the multitude, because they took Him for a Prophet.

Jesus Betrayed by Judas in the Garden

REGARDLESS of the anger and resentment of the chief priests, Jesus went on teaching the people His new doctrine and healing the sick, tho He knew that they were trying in every way to find something against Him, so that they might put Him to death.

You see they were afraid to do this openly, for fear that the people would rise up against them. One of Jesus' disciples, called Judas, disappointed that He had not proclaimed Himself King, thought that to betray his Master would be a good way for him to get in favor with the priests and perhaps become great like them.

Judas went to them and said, "What will ye give me, and I will deliver Him unto you?" They answered, "We will give you thirty pieces of silver." From that time on, Judas waited for an opportunity to betray his Master. At last one day, he went to the priests and told them that Jesus and His disciples went every night into the Garden of Gethsemane to pray, and that if they would come there, he, Judas, would go before them and go up

JESUS AND HIS FRIENDS IN THE "UPPER ROOM"

to Jesus and kiss Him, so that they might know Him. A short time after this, Jesus and His disciples were eating the Passover together in an upper room in Jerusalem.

The Master was trying to make His disciples understand that His purpose was not to be an earthly king but simply to teach men to know God better. He told them that He knew that the people would be the scorners of Him and hang Him on a cross. He also told them that this would be the last supper that He would eat with them. This made the disciples very sorrowful. "I tell you, indeed," He then said, "that one from among you will betray Me." This grieved them deeply and each one said in turn, "I am not the one, am I, Master?" Even Judas, knowing that he was the guilty one said, "It is not I, is it, Master?" Then spoke up the impetuous Peter saying, "I will always stand by you, no matter what may come!" Jesus, turning toward him, said, "This very night, before the cock shall crow, thou shalt deny Me three times." But Peter staunchly answered, "Though I should die with Thee, yet will I not deny Thee." And all the disciples said the same.

JESUS BETRAYED BY JUDAS IN THE GARDEN

That evening, as usual, Jesus went with His disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane. He went a little apart from His disciples that He might pray to His Father, for He knew that the people were going to turn against Him. While He was thus praying, His disciples fell asleep. He said to them, "Could ye not watch with Me one hour?"

Again He went apart to pray, saying, "Oh! My Father, if this cup may not pass away from Me, except I drink it, Thy will be done." On coming back to His disciples, He told them that he who would betray Him was at hand.

While He was thus speaking the chief priests and soldiers were entering the Garden, but coming before them was Judas. Judas had told these persecutors that the one he would kiss would be Jesus, and that they should hold Him, so he straight-way walked up to Jesus and kissed Him. Jesus then said to Judas, "Betrayest thou the Son of Man with a kiss?" The disciples tried to defend their Master, asking Him, "Lord, shall we smite with the sword?" At the same time one of them cut off the ear of the high priest's servant. Jesus would not let His disciples fight. He stretched forth His hand

and healed the wounded ear. You see there was never any revenge in the heart of Jesus, only love for His fellowmen.

Turning to the Priests, He said, "When I was daily in the Temple with you, ye stretched forth no hand against Me, but this is your hour and the power of darkness." Even then the priests could have repented, before committing the most dreadful crime. Instead, they ordered the soldiers to fulfill their task and they led Jesus away to the house of the High Priest.

Peter, being anxious to know what would happen to his Master, followed, and sat with the servants, waiting. While he was thus sitting there, a girl came up to him and said, "Thou also was with Jesus of Galilee." This frightened Peter and he quickly answered, "I know Him not!" Then a man came and said, "Thou art also one of them." Again Peter answered, "Man, I am not." During this time Jesus was standing with His hands bound and they were insulting Him and asking Him many questions. Again, some time after, another man came up to Peter and said to him, "Of a truth, this man was also with Him, for he is a Galilean."

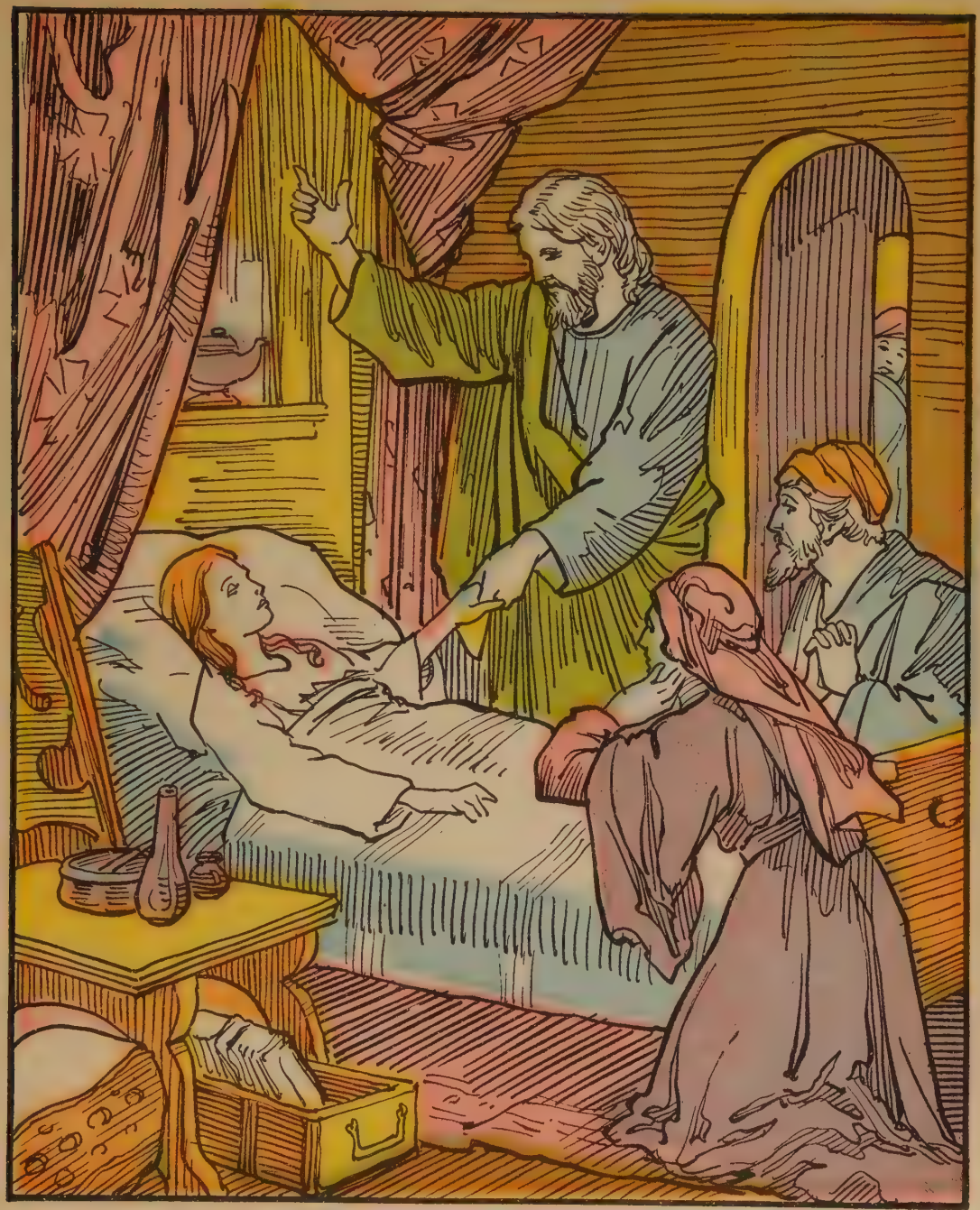
This frightened Peter very much and, angered, he shouted, "Man, I know not what thou sayest!" And then the cock crew! Jesus looked at Peter and Peter remembered that His master had told him during supper that very evening, "Before the cock crows, thou shalt deny Me thrice."

As Peter looked at His Master now, his heart broke and in sorrow he rushed from the hall, weeping bitterly.

Jesus Crucified on Calvary

ALL that night, Jesus was passed from one to the other of the judges, but they could not find any good reason to condemn Him to death. The next morning they decided to bring Him before Pontius Pilate, who was the Roman Governor.

Pilate was under orders of the Emperor of Rome to keep order in Jerusalem and he had to be very strict, as he knew he would be severely punished if he neglected his duty. When Pilate saw Jesus, he knew Him to be a righteous man and he did not think He had done anything which should condemn Him to death. All he knew against Him was that the Jews were angry because Jesus had said that He was their King. Pilate asked Jesus, "Art thou the king of the Jews?" Jesus' answer puzzled the governor greatly for He said, "My kingdom is not of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered unto the Jews." Pilate again asked Him, "Art thou a king then?" Jesus' answer was plain, "As thou sayest, I am a



JESUS RAISES THE DEAD DAUGHTER OF JAIRUS

JESUS SENDS FORTH HIS DISCIPLES

king. To this end was I born and for this cause came I into the world." As Pilate could still find no fault in Jesus, he told the people so.

It was the custom in honor of the Feast to always let some prisoner go free, so he suggested that they choose Jesus, the king of the Jews, to be the one. But the people would not have this and furiously shouted, "Not this man but Barabbas." Barabbas was a noted robber who was then in jail.

Pilate did not want to take the blame for having the innocent Jesus killed, so he tried in every way to show the people that He was not guilty. But the people would not listen to him. They cried, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!"

When Pilate found he could do nothing, he commanded that Jesus be scourged and the soldiers plaited a crown of thorns and put it on His head and threw over His shoulders a purple robe, crying mockingly, "Hail, King of the Jews!"

Pilate surely thought that would satisfy the people, but alas it did not, so he took Jesus aside again and asked Him who He really was. But Jesus would not speak. Finally Pilate said to Him, "Knowest Thou not that I have power to crucify

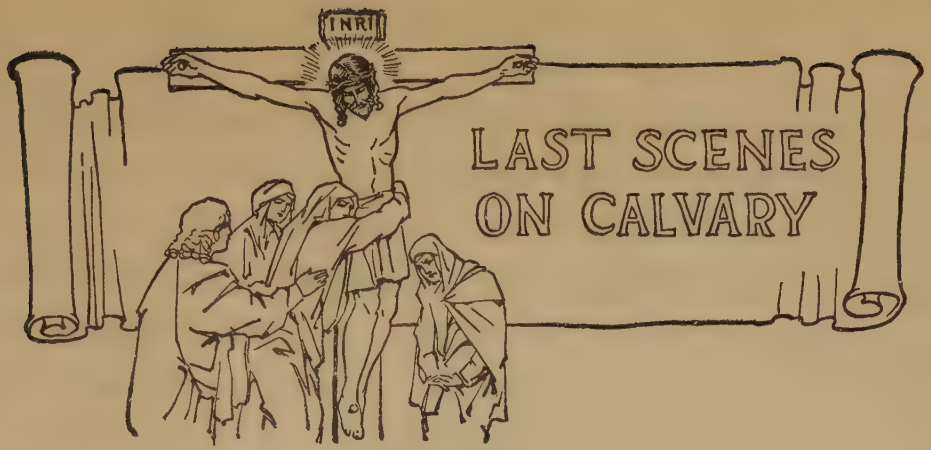
Thee and have power to release Thee?" Jesus said quietly, "Thou wouldst have no power at all against Me, except it were given thee from above."

Pilate then knew that Jesus was truly great and he tried again to save Him, but the people cried impatiently, "Away with Him, Crucify Him, Crucify Him!"

Pilate said, "Shall I crucify your king!" They replied, "We have no king but Caesar." Pilate then released Jesus unto them.

They led Jesus out of the city, making Him carry a heavy cross on His shoulders. When they reached Calvary, then they crucified Him, with a criminal on either side of Him. Still Jesus prayed saying, "Father forgive them, they know not what they do."

When Judas saw that his Master was really going to be killed, he was horrified, and rushing to the priests he flung the thirty pieces of silver at their feet. They only mocked him and then Judas realized what he had done, and unable to bear it, ran away and hanged himself.



WHILE Jesus hung on the cross, great crowds of people came and looked at Him. Among them were His poor broken-hearted disciples and Mary, His mother.

How hard it must have been for her, for she seemed to understand better than anyone His glory and greatness. No doubt, as she looked at Him, she thought of the time when He lay in the manger at Bethlehem, and of how she and Joseph had fled with Him into Egypt. Or perhaps she thought of the thirty years He had lived quietly and prayerfully in Nazareth, or of how in these last three years He had gone about doing good, healing the sick and telling the people about God, teaching them so that after He would no longer be with them, they could continue to do the works He had done.

Now, He was hanging on a cross, between two

thieves. Jesus knew that He had to go through all of this, in order to prove to the people that all He had told them was true. As He looked down, He saw His mother standing there, weeping. He commended her to John, His "beloved" disciple, telling him that he should take care of her and be to her as her own son. So John took Mary to his own home.

The priests came and tormented Jesus, saying, "You saved others, why don't you save yourself?" Everything just as it was happening had been fortold in the Scriptures. One of the criminals hanging next to Jesus said, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us." But the other criminal reproached the first, saying, "Should you not fear God, seeing that you are yourself in the same punishment, and we indeed rightly, for we justly receive it for what we have done, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he added, addressing Jesus, "Remember me, when you come into your kingdom." Jesus replied, "I tell you truly, today you shall be with me in paradise." Then the captain, who was in charge of the soldiers, exclaimed, "This is undoubtedly an innocent man."

From twelve o'clock noon that day, until three

in the afternoon, darkness fell upon the land, and the curtain of the Temple was torn in two. Then Jesus said, "It is finished," meaning that the Scriptures had been fulfilled. Having said this, He died.

The crowds then slowly went home. There was a rich man whose name was Joseph, a Judean, who as well as being rich, was benevolent and just. He went to Pilate and asked him for the body of Jesus.

Being granted his request, he took the body down from the cross and wrapped it in fine linen. Then he placed it in a rock-hewn tomb and placed before the entrance of it a large stone.

The chief priests and the Pharisees came again to Pilate, telling him that when Jesus was alive He had told them that He would rise again from the dead. So they asked Pilate to set a watch before the tomb and to put seals over the stone, in case His disciples should come during the night, steal His body and say that He had risen.

Pilate was vexed at this, for he still believed Jesus innocent, but he said, "Make it as sure as you can."

The Resurrection of Jesus

THREE days after the crucifixion, two godly women, having prepared sweet smelling spices came to the tomb where they had lain Jesus, in order to place them on His body.

To their astonishment, they found, on arriving there, that the stone had been rolled away and there were no soldiers there watching it. They went into the tomb to look for Jesus, and then they saw two men dressed in dazzling whiteness. This terrified them greatly but one of the men said, "Be not afraid, why seekest thou for the living among the dead? He is not here but is risen. Do you not remember how He spoke to you when He was yet in Galilee saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, but the third day, I shall rise again.'" Then they remembered Jesus having told them that very thing, so they went and told the others what they had seen, but even the disciples could not believe that this was true.

Peter and John then ran to the sepulchre and

there they saw the linen in which Jesus had been wrapped and they went away, wondering at what had come to pass.

Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and stood there weeping. Finally she looked into the tomb and there she saw two angels in white garments and they said to her, "Woman, why weepest thou?" She answered them, "Because they have taken away the body of my Lord and I know not where they have laid Him." All of a sudden Jesus stood before her, but she did not know that it was He. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why weepest thou?" Mary, thinking He was the gardener, said to Him, "Sir, if thou hast borne Him hence, tell me where thou hast laid Him and I will take Him away." Jesus said unto her, "Mary." When she heard her name thus spoken, she recognized the voice of Jesus and she cried, "Master!" Joyfully she ran to Jerusalem telling the people, "I have seen the Lord."

Two of the disciples then went to Emmaus, and as they were talking over what had happened, Jesus Himself joined them, but they did not recognize Him. He asked them, "What are you talking about; why are you so sad?" They said to Him,

"Art Thou a stranger in Jerusalem that Thou hast not heard of the crucifixion of our Lord?" And then they told Him everything that had happened in the last three days.

Jesus then told them that from the beginning of Moses and the prophets, all these things had been foretold. When He would leave them, they asked Him to abide with them, and while they were eating their evening meal, He took bread and broke it and gave it to them. By this they knew that it was Jesus who had talked to them so beautifully of the Scriptures on the way to Emmaus that He had made their hearts burn within them. Yes, it was indeed their Lord, Jesus Christ.

That same evening, the disciples were all together in a room where they had been locked, for fear of the people. Jesus appeared to them again and said, "Peace be unto you." As they were greatly frightened, Jesus said to them, "Why are you troubled? Behold my hands and feet, that it is I, for a spirit hath not flesh and bones." He then showed them the nail marks and the place in His side where He had been pierced. Altho they were overjoyed, they could hardly believe that it was really Jesus.

He said to them, "Have you any meat?" They gave Him a piece of broiled fish, and when they saw that He actually ate, they knew He was not a spirit and believed, for He had shown them that death had no power over Him.

Later the same evening, Thomas, who had not been with the disciples, came into the room where they were. Eagerly they told him how their Master had been there and talked with them. But Thomas doubted and said, "Unless I see the print marks of the nails and put my finger into His side, I will not believe."

A week later, when the disciples were together, Jesus came again and said, "Peace be unto you." Turning to Thomas, He said, knowing that he had doubted, "Reach hither thy finger and behold my hands, and thrust thy hand into my side. Be not faithless but believe." When Thomas saw Him all his doubts fled and he cried out, "My Lord and my God."

His Parting Message and Ascension

NOT long after this, Jesus again showed Himself to His disciples. This was His last earthly appearance.

When we stop to think how much Jesus accomplished in the three years of His ministry, we can well marvel.

At the Mount of Olives, which you will remember is near Jerusalem, Jesus met His friends for the last time. It was here that He told them that He must go back to His Father, but that His teaching would dwell in their hearts forever, and in the hearts of all who were to come after them. You see He was telling them that this Truth had come to dwell among the people for all time. Surely this Holy Spirit of Truth is with us now, helping us to live good, noble, brave and generous lives. Earnestly they listened to every word the Master spoke.

It being the Spring of the year, Jerusalem must have looked very beautiful bathed in the glorious sunlight with the hue of the many colored flowers. But the people probably did not even turn their eyes in that direction, so intent were they not to

miss one word that their beloved Master was saying to them.

"Go ye into the world and preach the Gospel to every creature," He said, "He that believeth in Me shall be saved. These signs shall follow them that believe. In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues. They shall take up serpents and if they drink any deadly thing it shall not hurt them. They shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover, for, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

Having thus spoken, His face lit up with love, as He smiled on them a last farewell, and, rising from the earth, He passed upwards, out of their sight.

The disciples went forth and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them.

Peter and John Preach Jesus

JESUS had talked to the people from the galleries or porches of the Temple, as they are called in the Bible. These porches were very richly paved and the roofs of them were supported by exquisite pillars of colored marble.

Peter and John went together to the Temple every day to tell the people how Jesus Christ had risen from the dead. One day as they were entering the Temple, they saw a man, who had been lame from birth. He was being carried to the gate of the Temple which is called Beautiful. Here he would sit daily, asking alms. When he saw Peter and John, he was about to ask alms of them, but Peter said to him, "Look on us." The lame man did look at them, thinking they indeed intended giving him money. Peter then said very kindly and earnestly, "Silver and gold I have not, but such as I have give I thee. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." Peter took him by the hand and lifted him up. Immediately his legs and ankle bones received strength and he, leaping, stood up

and walked. He entered the Temple with them, praising God. This astonished the people who saw him. By the time Peter and John came out of the Temple with the man holding to them, the news of his healing had spread so that there was already a great crowd gathered on the porch of Solomon.

When Peter saw the crowd, he addressed them thus: "Men of Israel, why are you surprised at this? Why do you look so earnestly on us? As if by our power or holiness we had made this man to walk." He then told them that the healing was performed in the name of Jesus Christ, the One whom they had betrayed and rejected. He asked the people to repent and be converted, that their sins might be forgiven them, and that they might understand and be obedient to the teachings of Christ.

The priests and rulers of the Jews heard that he was thus talking to the people and it made them very angry indeed. When it grew dark, the people were indignant to see that they had sent soldiers to seize Peter and John and to carry them off to prison. Here they kept them until morning. Many of the people who had listened to Peter and John believed, and their numbers increased to about five thousand.

The next day many magistrates and elders asked Peter and John by what authority they had done this. Peter, being full of the Holy Spirit, answered them, "Ye rulers of the people and elders of Israel, be it known to you all and to all people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by Him, doth this man stand here before you, whole." Seeing for themselves the man standing before them, healed, they could say nothing against it. But in order that this doctrine should not spread, they commanded the disciples not to speak or teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered them, saying, "Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye, for we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."

Threatening them again, but finding no reason to punish them, they let them go. Peter and John went their way, daily teaching the people and healing the sick.

The Miracle at Pentecost

IT WAS now harvest time in Canaan. The time of the Feast of Pentecost was the feast of the Jews' great thanksgiving. The crowds of strangers that came to Jerusalem to celebrate this feast, brought with them beautiful baskets decorated with flowers. In the baskets were their offerings of fruit, corn and oil.

The people who had not been in Jerusalem since the last feast day, were all anxious to hear what had been going on in their absence. The strangest story of all that was told to them was about a young man whose name was Jesus. They told how He had come forth preaching and healing, as tho He were a great prophet. But what the priests considered worse than all else was that He actually called Himself the King of the Jews and the Son of God. They also told the strangers that He was a deceiver and had said awful things against their Holy Temple, but that He had finally been condemned to death and crucified. And even now, some of Jesus' friends, whom He had called His disciples, were actually trying to make people believe that He had

risen from the dead and after that had ascended into Heaven. They told them that even now some of these people were in Jerusalem and that they were in each others houses to pray and to talk about their crucified King.

Suddenly there came a sound from Heaven, as a rushing mighty wind and it filled all the houses where they were sitting. The people rushed around asking each other what it could mean, as they greatly feared. Soon someone spread the report that this wind had shaken the house where the followers of Christ were assembled and that fire had come down from Heaven and flashed about their heads. The people then crowded around this house to see if what they had heard could be true.

The faithful disciples knew that it was true; they knew that with the wind and fire had come the Holy Spirit; it had entered into their hearts and filled them with joy and power, even as Jesus had promised.

Finally when Peter, John, James and the other disciples came in they began to talk to the crowds. You will remember the crowd consisted mostly of strangers who had come from many different coun-

JESUS RAISES FROM THE TOMB

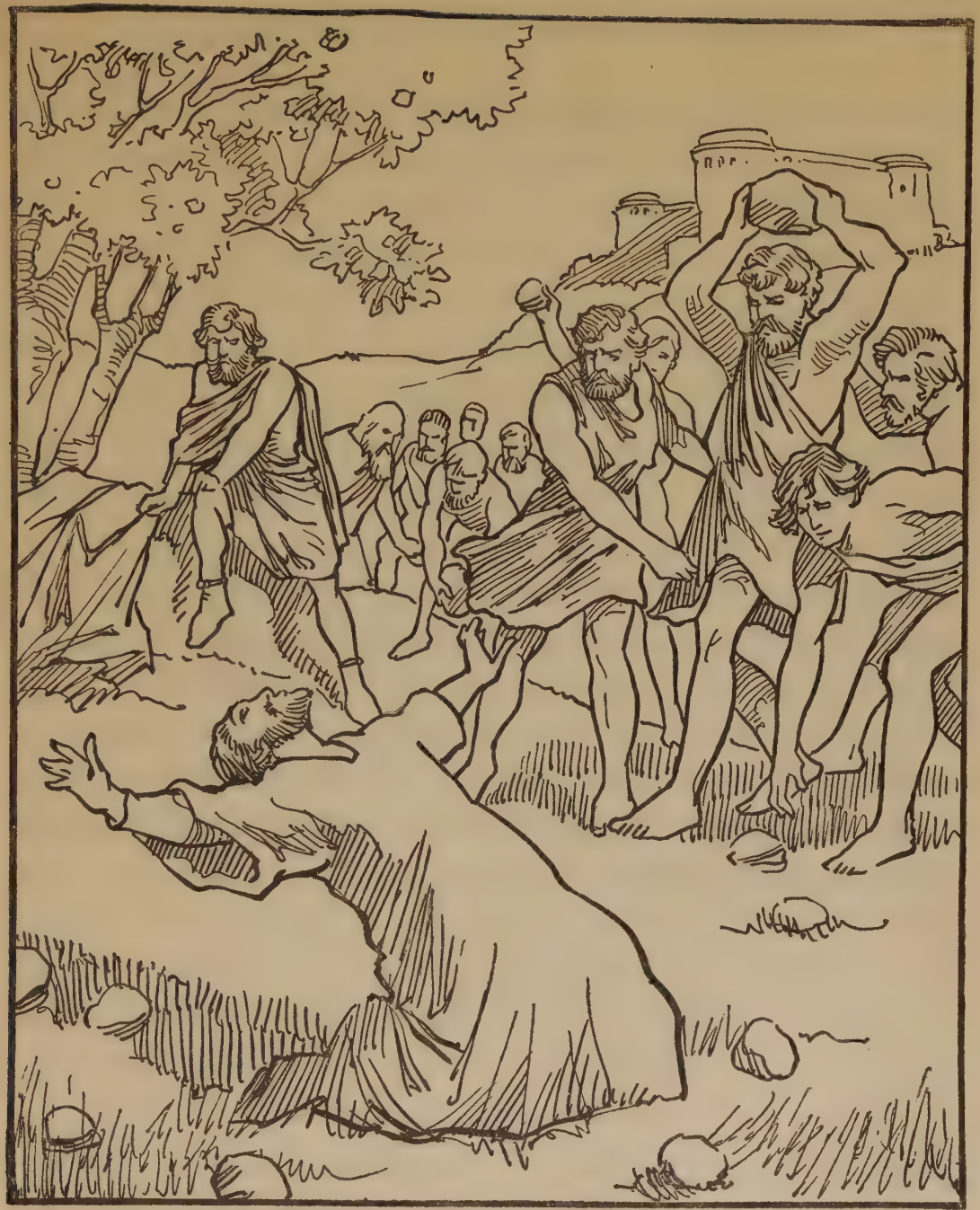
HIS TRIUMPHAL ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM

tries, so there were many different languages represented. To their astonishment the people said, "Behold, are not all these which speak Galileans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue wherein we were born?" They had heard that the disciples were simple uneducated people, so they wondered the more that they were able to speak all languages. Some of the people cried out, "They must be drunk!" As they were thus crying Peter came forward and stood out where all could see him. Peter, who such a short time ago, had been so cowardly as to deny knowing the Master, now was bold and fearless, and glad to make amends for his folly by telling every one about his beloved King who had risen from the dead. "Ye men of Israel," he cried, "hear these words. These men are not drunk, as ye think, seeing it is but the third hour of the day. This is a prophecy being fulfilled, and whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God hath made the same Jesus, whom ye crucified, both Lord and Christ!"

The First Christian Martyr

IN JERUSALEM at this time there lived a young Pharisee named Saul. When he was quite young, he had been sent to a Jewish school, where he learnt to read and write and to understand Greek and Hebrew. Saul also learnt the trade of making a coarse kind of linen cloth out of which tents were made. As he grew older his father found out that he was more clever than most of his companions, so he sent him to Jerusalem. Saul was then about sixteen years old and his teacher was a wise Pharisee whose name was Gamaliel. After a while, Saul decided that he also would become a Pharisee. Consequently he learnt to think as the Pharisees did concerning the teaching of Jesus Christ. It horrified Saul to think that anyone should dare to say that a man who had been crucified could be King of the Jews, and the Son of God, and he honestly thought anyone who taught such things should be terribly punished and even killed.

By this time Saul was sitting on the Council together with the Scribes and Elders. There was



STEPHEN STONED TO DEATH OUTSIDE JERUSALEM

a young man named Stephen who had been chosen by the Apostles, together with six others, to the office of deaconship.

Stephen was a man full of faith, of the Holy Spirit, and of great benevolence. He did great wonders and miracles among the people.

The Elders and Pharisees had gathered together to dispute with him, but Stephen answered so wisely that they were obliged to admit that they had nothing more to say. This made them very angry, so they stirred up the people and Rulers and caught Stephen, bringing him before the Council. Saul thought the same as the rest of the Council, that Stephen must be a wicked man. But Stephen was not afraid, for had not Jesus Christ warned His disciples that they would be brought before Kings and Courts and be tortured, even put to death, for His sake?

The Pharisees had paid men to come and lie about Stephen and to say that he had used terrible words against Moses and God. As the men of the Council looked steadfastly on Stephen, they saw that his face was filled with glory, as tho he had been an angel from God.

The High Priest said to Stephen, "Are these things so?" Stephen made a very long and remarkable speech to the Council, long to be remembered. He said, "Men, brethren and fathers, hearken. The God of glory appeared unto our father Abraham and spoke to him. He then reminded the people of the history of the children of Israel, how Moses had delivered the people out of bondage, how they had rejected him, how they had asked Aaron to build them a golden calf to worship, how envy had sold Joseph into Egypt and how afterwards he had become governor, how God had come to Moses out of a fiery bush saying 'I am the God of thy fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac and of Jacob,' how when Moses told the people they said to him, 'Who made thee a ruler and a judge?' Moses saying to the people, 'A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you, of your brethren, like unto me, him shall ye hear.' Stephen finished by saying, "ye stiffnecked heathens, ye are always in opposition to the Holy Spirit. As your forefathers were, so are ye."

Saul and the rest of the Council were listening intently to this speech and it cut them deeply. It

also angered them so that they cried out with a mighty shout and ran toward Stephen. They rushed him along the narrow streets out of the city gate and down the rough road. Stephen knew that he was to be stoned to death, but as he stood bound and helpless, he cried out, "Lord, Jesus, receive my Spirit." And after many stones had been thrown at him, he remembered that Jesus had said when they nailed Him to the cross, "Father forgive them, they know not what they do." Stephen, now following in his Master's footsteps, cried out, "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge!"

Saul, thinking and acting the same as the Pharisees, was really as responsible for his death as they were. When all was over, the broken-hearted Christians reverently buried the body of Stephen.

Stephen was the first to be put to death for the sake of the beloved Master, Jesus Christ.

Peter's Wondrous Vision

PONTIUS Pilate was no longer Governor and another Roman Governor had been put in his place over Judea; then for a time the Churches of Palestine were free from persecution. Up to this time, those to receive the word of God were Jews, but now the Gentiles were also listening to the preaching.

Peter was the first one to preach a world wide religion. John, Saul, who had become a convert and was now called Paul, and James the brother of John, were also preaching to the people.

At this time Peter started on a journey through the country to teach the people. The first place that he stopped was Lydda. This is where he healed Eneas, who had been a paralytic for eight years. From there Peter went to Joppa, this seaport is the one from which Jonah sailed, when he tried to escape his missionary journey to Nineveh. The people in Joppa were very sad, as their belveod Dorcas had died. Peter raised her from the dead.

In the city of Caesarea, about thirty-five miles from Joppa, where the Roman governor held his

court, there lived a Roman officer, whose name was Cornelius. He was a very good man, kind to the poor and he had learned of the Son of God, and to Him he prayed. Altho he was not a learned man, he was ready and eager to listen to the word of Truth.

One day as Cornelius was pondering over many things, a messenger from God appeared unto him, calling him by name. "What is it, Lord?" Cornelius answered. The messenger then told him that he should send men to Joppa to call for Peter. He told him that Peter was lodging with Simon, the tanner, whose house was by the seaside. "He shall tell thee what thou ought to do," finished the messenger.

Cornelius sent three men to Joppa to find Peter. Altho Peter did not know of their coming, at this very time he had a vision. He saw a great sheet knotted at the corners, let down from Heaven to earth, and in the sheet were all kinds of birds and beasts and creeping things. "Rise, Peter, kill and eat," said a voice. "Not so, Lord," protested Peter, "for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean."

"What God has cleansed," spoke the voice,

"that call thou not common." Three times this vision appeared to him and Peter wondered greatly why something so adverse to his teaching should come to him.

While Peter was thus wondering, the three men that Cornelius had sent, came through the streets of Joppa and stopped at the house of Simon, the tanner. The voice spoke to Peter again, "Behold, three men seek you; arise therefore, and get down and go with them, doubting nothing, for I have sent them." Obediently Peter went to meet the men, saying to them, "I am him whom ye seek, what is the cause wherefore ye are come?" They told him that Cornelius, a just man and of good report with all the nation of the Jews had been named of God to send for him to hear him talk. Peter invited the men into the house, where he gave them food and lodging. Peter was still thinking of the vision, in which he had learned that in God's sight nothing is common or unclean.

The next morning they started for Caesarea and with them went six disciples. When they came to the house of Cornelius, they found him, with many of his friends, waiting for them. As soon as Cor-

nelius saw Peter, he dropped to his knees. "Stand up," said Peter, "I myself also am a man. Ye know that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is not a Jew to come unto one of another nation, but God hath shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean, therefore came I unto you, as soon as I was sent for. I ask therefore, for what intent you have sent for me." Cornelius then told Peter of his vision. "Now therefore," he added, "we are all here present before God to hear all things that are commanded of God." "Of a truth, I perceive that God is no respecter of persons," Peter exclaimed. So he preached to the eager multitude about the risen Christ.

As they earnestly listened the Holy Spirit fell upon them as it had come to the disciples in Jerusalem, and all the Jews present marvelled that it should come to the Gentiles.

Peter Rescued from Prison

FOR a while the Christians were allowed to preach in peace. The healing of the lame, the blind and the sick, went on uninterruptedly. Many were converted and believed in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

At last the Romans appointed a new King whose name was Agrippa. Naturally, he was anxious to make friends with the rulers of the Jews, so he tried to discover the easiest way to do this.

Before Agrippa had been in Jerusalem very long, he heard how the Christians were teaching the resurrection of Christ, calling Him King of the Jews. He also learned that this was distasteful to the Jews and how they had been imprisoning the teachers. The King decided to persecute these Christians and thereby gain favor of the rulers.

The first subject of his injustice was James, John's brother, who was one of the chief apostles. He was ordered to be killed by the sword. This grieved the Christians greatly for they all loved James. This act showed them that the persecutions were beginning again.

On the contrary, among the rulers, there was joy and they went to the King and flattered him and praised him for what he had done. Anxious to please even in this cruel and unjust way, he sent the soldiers to capture Peter and put him in prison. The Christians felt this as a great loss for Peter was the bravest and boldest of them all.

As this was again the feast time, great crowds were in Jerusalem. Throughout the day, some of the Christians met together in the house of a sick woman named Mary, the mother of John. Here they prayed earnestly to God to save their leader.

Although Peter could work great miracles for others, like his Master, Jesus Christ, he had never worked a miracle to save himself. In the prison he was guarded day and night by four soldiers, who were changed every six hours. His right arm was chained to the left wrist of a soldier and his left arm to the wrist of another soldier.

Peter's Christian friends knew how well he would be guarded in the prison and they despaired of his getting his freedom. Meanwhile Peter sat patiently in the prison, talking to the guards and telling them about Jesus Christ, although he knew not what day

he would be dragged forth to die. He never ceased rejoicing and being grateful to God. He sang hymns to the guards and to the other prisoners, praising and glorifying God and Jesus Christ.

At last he heard that he was to be brought forth to his enemies, but even then Peter had no fear. When night came, he lay on his bed of straw and slept as peacefully as a child. Suddenly a bright light shone into the cell, and Peter was struck on the side. No doubt he thought that the soldiers were going to murder him in the dead of the night. Looking around he saw that the soldiers were sound asleep and behold, a beautiful angel was standing before him. "Arise up quickly," said the angel. To Peter's amazement the chains dropped off his hands. The angel then told Peter to put on his sandals and cloak, and to fasten up his garments, so that he could walk. Peter, thinking this a dream, nevertheless obeyed quickly and quietly. He followed the angel and when they passed the soldiers, none of them woke up. When they reached the great iron gate of the city, they found that it opened of its own accord. Peter and the Angel passed through it. Then, as suddenly as he had come, the

angel left Peter and he found himself alone in the dark street. Peter then realized that this was not a dream, but that it was real, and he had been liberated by the hand of God. He knew that his friends would be praying for him, and he guessed that he would find them in the house of Mary.

He went to Mary's house and knocked at the door. A young girl named Rhoda, hearing him knock, asked who was there. When Peter answered, she knew his voice immediately and in her joy and excitement ran to tell the Christians that Peter had come, forgetting to open the door for him. Her friends said to her, "Thou art mad!" But Rhoda insisted that it was Peter. Finally they opened the door and found to their amazement Peter standing there.

Peter made a sign to them to be very quiet. Going in, he told them how the angel of the Lord had brought him out of prison. After talking to them a little while, he instructed them to tell their other Christian friends that he was free. He then left them, knowing that it would not be safe for him to remain in Jerusalem until morning.

How excited the prison guards must have been

the next morning when they found that Peter had escaped, although his chains were still there. The soldiers were greatly terrified, for they knew that the punishment for letting a prisoner escape, was death.

The Light that Changed Saul

MANY of the Christians were beginning to leave Jerusalem. Since Stephen, the first to suffer martyrdom, was stoned to death, the High Priests and Rulers were determined to kill every one who dared to say that Jesus Christ had risen from the dead.

This so terrified the poor Christians that those who did not go away were very silent indeed.

You will remember that Saul of Tarsus had become a Pharisee; in fact he was now the keenest and bitterest enemy that the Christians had. He even went into the houses, dragging forth men and women, either putting them in prison or having them killed.

However, whatever city or place these brave Christians traveled to, they preached the risen Christ. In the end, their having to get out of Jerusalem proved to be a good thing, for it spread the glad news widely.

Saul, hearing that some of the Christians had gone out, asked the High Priest to give him letters or warrants so that he might take soldiers to Damas-

JESUS PRAYS IN THE GARDEN

PETER HEALS THE LAME MAN

cus and capture them, whatever they were, men or women, and bring them back to Jerusalem in chains. Saul, of course, thought he was doing right, for according to his understanding he thought they were preaching against the law. While he thought that he was obeying the law of Moses, you will see that Saul was soon to find out what a terrible mistake he was making.

Saul and his party soon drew near to the city of Damascus. They could already see its beauty nestling in the sunny plain. All around it were green fields and vineyards. Saul became very eager in what he thought he was about to accomplish, so he hurried on. While he was on this road to Damascus, suddenly a great light shone around him and the men who were with him. Saul looked up, but fell back to the earth blinded. He then heard a strange voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" "Who art thou, Lord?" Saul answered. "I am Jesus, whom thou persecutest. It is hard for thee to kick against the goads," the voice answered.

A goad was a huge stick with a heavy spike at the end, with which herdsmen drove their oxen. If

the oxen kicked against the spike it hurt them all the more. By saying this, Jesus meant that Saul was only hurting himself trying to fight against the Son and Master.

Those that were with Saul also saw the light, but they did not hear the voice. Saul then spoke, "Lord, what will thou have me do?" The voice answered, "Arise and go into the city, and it will be told thee what thou shalt do." When Saul rose from the ground, he could not see, so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days Saul lay in darkness, neither eating nor drinking. The Christians hearing that he was there were greatly alarmed.

The Lord came to a certain one of the disciples named Ananias in a vision and said to him, "Arise and go into the street which is called Straight and inquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold he prayeth."

Ananias went to the street called Straight, and asked for Saul. When he saw the man who had once been his enemy, he took Saul by the hand, fearlessly, for he knew that to be a follower of Christ he must love his enemies and be kind to them who

hated him. Brother Saul," he said, "receive thy sight. The God of our fathers hath chosen thee that thou shouldst know Him and see the Just One, and shouldst hear His voice. For thou shalt be His witness unto all men of whom thou hast seen and heard. Arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins. Call on the name of the Lord."

Immediately Saul received his sight and looked at his kind friend. He then had something to eat. This strengthened him greatly. Together he and Ananias visited the Christians in Damascus. Eager as Saul had been before to persecute the Christians, even more eager was he now to tell everyone that Jesus Christ was the Son of God, and had risen from the dead.

The rulers and elders of the synagogue then surrounded Saul, arguing with him and questioning him as they had done to Stephen.

Saul stayed in Damascus for about three years, preaching and teaching the people about Jesus Christ.

Heathen Stone the Disciples

THE Greek name of Saul was Paul, so after this we will call him by that name. After a while, Paul went back to his own city of Tarsus, where he lived for several years.

At last he started on many long and dangerous journeys to preach about Jesus Christ. Each time he entered a city he would first go to the synagogue and then, proclaim the wonderful story to the Jews. There he delighted in telling it to the heathens or Gentiles. He would tell them that God was their Father and that Jesus Christ was their Saviour.

The Jews did not believe what Paul told them, and they did not want anyone else to accept Jesus as their Lord and King. They often followed Paul from city to city, stirring up the people against him.

Barnabas was now traveling with Paul. Together they entered the city of Iconium. Here they preached and performed many wonders and miracles, and the grateful people knew that God was with them. The unbelieving people tried to persuade the others that Paul and Barnabas were wicked men.

This puzzled them and the city soon divided, some thinking these men good and others thinking them evil. This difference of opinion brought forth quarrels and plotting. Fortunately the Christians heard of the plotting and they warned Paul and Barnabas to flee from the city.

From Iconium they journeyed to Lystra, continuing in their good work for they had been told not to weary in well doing. At Lystra there was a man who had been lame from birth. When Paul saw him, he knew that he would believe, so he called out in a loud voice, so that all the crowd could hear, "Stand upright on thy feet!" Immediately this man leaped up and walked, praising God. He then followed Paul and Barnabas before all the people. The healing amazed the crowd greatly, for they had never seen anything like it before. They shouted, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!"

The people of Lystra worshipped differently from any of those we have heard of before. They worshipped the gods we have read about in mythology so they thought that Paul and Barnabas must be Jupiter and Mercury. Full of excitement they

rushed to the priests telling them that the gods had come. In the meantime Paul and Barnabas, never guessing what they meant to do, went on preaching.

To their surprise and horror, they soon saw a procession coming toward them, headed by the priests. The oxen which followed were garlanded with flowers, as offerings to Paul and Barnabas. The great crowd of people were very excited and anxious to do honor to whom they thought were the gods. This grieved the apostles greatly and they rent their clothes, so thus to express their distress. Hither and thither they rushed among the people explaining to them that they were not gods, but simple men, come to preach about the one true God in Heaven and His Son, Jesus Christ. The apostles cried out, "Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you and preach unto you that you should turn from these vanities into the ways of the living God, which made heaven, the earth, the sea and all things that are therein."

The people of Lystra were very disappointed that they could not offer them their sacrifices and to learn that after all Paul and Barnabas were not gods, and the disappointment soon grew to anger. They

turned on these two good men and stoned Paul. Thinking him dead, they dragged him out of the city.

But the good is always heard by some, so even in this little city of rough and ignorant people, a few had already become Christians. These compassionately bathed Paul's wounds and cared for him. Presently Paul opened his eyes, and it was with great joy that they helped him to rise and to find that he was able to speak to them once more.

Barnabas had not been stoned, so he took Paul safely away to another city.

An Earthquake Breaks Jail

PAUL wished to travel westward and tell his good news in the cities of Greece and Italy.

He had now reached the seaside town of Troas. From here he could see across the wide blue sea and he knew that beyond lay the lands of Greece and Macedonia. He prayed to God to know if it was time to begin his journey.

As he lay asleep that very night he dreamed that he saw a man from Macedonia. This man said to him very earnestly, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." Paul believed that this was the sign for him to go, so he told his friends, Silas and Luke, about his vision.

Luke was a doctor who went with Paul on his travels. He was the one who wrote the beautiful story of the life of Jesus which we call the Gospel of St. Luke, and he also wrote about Stephen, Peter and Paul, in the book called "The Acts of the Apostles."

The three men then went to the harbor and paid the captain of the ship to take them to Macedonia;

then they started on their travels westward. By the next morning they had reached the seaport town of Neapolis, but as Paul wanted to go to some of the inland cities, they set forth along a finely paved Roman road. These Roman roads were so wonderfully made that even today, after all these many, many years, they are in good condition. Many people passed them, some on foot, some on horseback, some in rude carts or in grand chariots, for this was the road that led to the important city of Philippi.

There were a great many Romans living in this city, but so few Jews that there was not even a synagogue. Before long our travelers found that a few women would gather together by the side of the river, to pray to God. The name of one of these women was Lydia. She was a wise and industrious woman and kept a shop in which she sold beautiful purple cloth. Lydia was not a Jewess, yet she worshipped the one true God.

You can imagine how delightedly she listened to Paul, as he told them all about Jesus Christ. He told how he himself had at one time furiously persecuted the Christians, but that he was now

spending his life in telling others about the true way of salvation. Lydia listened attentively and on account of her really seeking the true God, she understood and became converted, asking Paul to baptize her and all her relatives and servants that lived in her home. Being very anxious to show her gratitude to the man who had come so far to teach about the Master and His Holy Spirit, she pleaded with Paul and his friends to come and stay in her home. She said to them, "If ye have judged me faithful to the Lord, come into my home and abide there." I am sure our travelers were glad of such a welcome in a strange city. We are told that they thankfully accepted the kind and generous invitation of this woman.

Day after day, Paul and Silas would go down to the river to preach, and before long their followers were many. Among the crowd was a poor slave girl. She told fortunes for money, but she was very unfortunate, for at times she was afflicted with distressing fits. This made the people think that evil spirits would come out of her and tell her of the future. Seeing Paul and Silas, she followed them shrieking, "These men are servants of the Most High

God, who proclaims to you the way of salvation." She did this many times so that Paul was greatly disturbed. At last he turned to her speaking to the evil spirit, "I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And the evil spirit came out that same hour. The slave girl rejoiced that the understanding of Christ had come to her and that she could no longer tell fortunes. Naturally her master, to whom all the money that she earned went, was very angry and for revenge he caught Paul and Silas, dragging them to the market place and brought them before the local Roman magistrate.

This master knew that the Romans hated the Jews, so instead of telling them the truth about Paul and Silas, he told the magistrate that they were Jews, teaching different customs than theirs. The crowd, not understanding what it was all about, only thinking that these men had done something against the Romans, grew angry. The magistrate, instead of even trying to find out the truth or giving them a chance to defend themselves, commanded that Paul's and Silas' clothes should be torn off them and that they should be tied to the public whipping-post and beaten mercilessly.

Paul and Silas endured this patiently and silently, for had not this same thing happened to their Master, Jesus Christ?

After this, as if the punishment were not enough, the magistrate had them thrown into prison, warning the jailor to keep them safely. You may be sure that he flung them into an inner prison where it was very dark. He fastened their feet in stocks.

At midnight the other prisoners suddenly heard Paul and Silas praying to God and singing His praises in sacred hymns. As a rule, when prisoners were beaten as they had been, they shouted out angry words and curses. How wonderful that Paul and Silas could be so joyful. While they were thus wondering, there came a mighty earthquake; the whole prison was shaken and immediately the doors were wrenched open and the staples which held the prisoner's chains became unfastened.

The jailor, seeing what had happened, was terrified, for he surely thought all the prisoners had escaped. Then there would be nothing left for him to do but to kill himself, so he drew his sword for that purpose. But Paul quickly called out in the darkness, "Do no harm to thyself, for we are all

here." Calling for light, the jailor ran into the dungeon and, trembling, threw himself down before Paul and Silas. They spoke so kindly to the frightened man that he ordered that they be brought out of the prison. Turning to them he humbly asked, "My lords, what must I do to be saved?" The jailor and all the household listened to Paul and Silas while they talked to them about Jesus, and before morning all had become Christians and were baptized.

When the magistrate heard about the earthquake, he became afraid also and hastily summoned the jailor telling him to let the men go. This order the jailor was only too happy to obey. But Paul would not sneak out of the prison, for they were not guilty of wrong-doing and furthermore they were Roman citizens and were free-born. They thought the magistrate, who had beaten and disgraced them before all the people, should now come and get them, so that all should know that they were not wicked men. So the terrified magistrate hurried to the prison, asking forgiveness, also begging them to come out of the prison and leave the city.

Paul and Silas came out and straightway went to all those who had dared to call themselves Christians and comforted them. Then they traveled on to preach about Jesus Christ in another city.

The Message to Heathen Athens

HEN Paul and Silas left Philippi, they went to Thessalonica and several other cities, preaching wherever they went. Finally after many troubles and difficulties they reached Athens. Athens is the capital of Greece and is the most beautiful city in the world.

The Athenians were, at that time, the wisest and most cultured and artistic people. Paul was to learn how they would receive his message. As he wandered about the city, he saw everywhere about him wonderful statues of gods and goddesses, carved in snow white marble. There were also many exquisitely built temples of the gods. The pillars of these temples were made of white and colored marble and beautifully carved. In front of them were ornamental pavements and inside the walls were covered with the most wonderful paintings. Even today, no one can carve such marvelous statues, as did the Athenians. In many of our museums, broken statues that you see, have been brought all the way from Athens.

As Paul looked at all this beauty, he was filled

with sadness, for he knew that those people were idle and wicked, that they either worshipped these foolish gods, or else they worshipped their own wisdom. He longed to show them the glory of Jesus Christ, so he set about to look for a synagogue. When he found it, he started at once to talk to the Jews. From the synagogue he went to the Market Place, also beautiful to look at, for here one could buy not only food, cattle and horses, but also beautiful clothes and wonderful treasures, which came from many parts of the world. Here they even sold slaves.

Paul went there every day and soon he had his little crowd of listeners as he told them the strange story of the Master who had come to earth, not as a great prince, or as a mighty warrior, but as a simple peasant, who was despised and crucified. Some listened to him out of idle curiosity and some with genuine interest. He then told them that this same Jesus Christ had risen from the dead.

Soon the Athenians began to argue and wonder what this stranger could mean. He was then invited by some of the most learned among them to come before their council, at a place called the Areo-

AN ANGEL OPENS PETER'S PRISON DOORS

SAUL'S VISION THAT CHANGED HIS LIFE

pagus, the highest court in Athens, and there explain to them this new religion. This the Athenians considered a great honor for Paul. It was a very beautiful structure and Paul had to mount a very wonderful flight of stairs. At the top were seated the chief Athenians.

Paul stood forth on a block of stone, the people crowding up the steps as close as they could so that they might hear him, for the Athenians were always ready to learn something new. Down below, Paul could see the idle temple, the altars, the shrines and the statues, and this made him want all the more to have the Athenians know the true God. Thus he spoke to them: "Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are too superstitious, for as I passed by and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription 'To the unknown God'. Whom therefore, ye ignorantly worship, Him declare I unto you. The God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that He is Lord of Heaven and Earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands, for in Him we live and move and have our being." Paul then told them that they must not think that God was made of silver and gold, or a beautifully carved

THE APOSTLE IN PRAYER

statue, for the true God whom we cannot see, is the Father of us all. They listened very carefully to what Paul said, but when he began to speak about Jesus Christ being risen from the dead, these wise people began to mock and to laugh, while some, trying to be polite, said they would go and come back and listen another time.

Paul was very much disappointed, for he knew that people taking such an attitude would never be Christians. So he left Athens and the Athenians lost their chance, for he never spoke to them again.

Where today there are millions of Christians all over the world, we never hear of the Athenians' gods, except in stories of long ago.

Mobs Plot to Kill Paul

PAUL on leaving Athens continued his journey toward Jerusalem. He went first to Corinth to wait for Silas and Timothy.

At this time Claudius commanded that all Jews should leave Rome. To Corinth had wandered two Jews, a man and his wife, whose names were Aquilla and Priscilla. They were tent-makers which is the same trade that Paul had followed before commencing his study of the scriptures.

Paul met these people and they soon became friends. He lived and worked right with them. On the Sabbath he would go to the synagogue and there he would preach to the Jews and the Greeks.

Paul wrote two letters to the churches at Thessalonica while he was in Corinth, encouraging the people to hold steadfast under persecution and to go diligently about their daily business in the name of Christ.

A certain man, whose name was Justus, gave Paul his house near the synagogue. Here the people would gather to hear the Apostle preach.

Paul supported himself by working at his old trade, that of tent-maker, and he lived in Corinth for eighteen months.

The new ruler of the synagogue became more and more disturbed when he saw the numbers increase at the meetings held in Justus' house where Paul preached. In spite of this disturbance Paul had no fear, for one night he had a vision, when he heard the voice of God saying to him, "Be not afraid, but speak and hold not thy peace, for I am with thee, and no man shall hurt thee, for I have many people in this city." So Paul continued preaching the word of God among them and many of the Corinthians believed and were baptized.

A new Roman governor was now sent to Corinth. His name was Gallio, and Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, thinking it a good time to bring trouble to the Christians, seized Paul and brought him before Gallio. They were in the midst of an angry mob of people who wanted to kill Paul. "This fellow," cried they to Gallio, as he sat on the judgment seat, "persuadeth men to worship God contrary to the law." Paul was about to say something in his defense, when Gallio silenced him.

PAUL, THE TENT-MAKER, AND HIS FRIENDS

Turning to the angry mob of Jews he said, "If it were a matter of wrong to you Jews, reason would that I should bear with you, but if it be a question of words and names, and of your law, look ye to it, for I will be no judge of such matters," and he drove the mob away.

Paul was free but the Greeks who sympathized with Paul, took Sosthenes and beat him right before the judgment seat, but Gallio was not even interested enough to interfere.

After a while Paul left Corinth together with his friends Aquilla and Priscilla. Then he left them that he might go to Jerusalem, as he wished to be there in time for the great holiday feasts.

Diana-Worshipers Plot and Riot

IN THE city of Ephesus, Paul met a Judean named Apollos. Well educated and versed in the Scriptures, he had been a disciple of John the Baptist. He was an eloquent speaker, so the Jews delighted in listening to him. Paul asked him if he had received the Holy Spirit. He answered, "On the contrary I have never heard of the Holy Spirit." Paul then wanted to know into what he had been baptized. Apollos told him, "Into the baptism of John." Paul then instructed him more perfectly. After that, for about three months, Apollos spoke in the synagogue, discussing and persuading the people concerning the Kingdom of God. But as was their experience in every place, there were some who obstinately resisted the truth. Thus the people were divided in thought.

All this time, Paul was displaying wonderful power in healing the sick, and performing miracles.

Altho there were some exorcists who tried to use the name of Jesus Christ to evil intent, it was of no avail. Many, who had been going about teach-

ing the magic arts, now brought their books and burned them in public, to show that they did not believe that way any more. These books were considered valuable to the amount of fifty thousand pieces of silver.

Thus the message of the Lord continued and excelled in power. However, a serious disturbance now occurred. A certain man, named Demetrius, was the cause of it. He was a silversmith and he made shrines of Diana. Assembling together other men engaged in this same trade, he said to them, "You know, men, that our wealth depends upon this trade, and you see and hear how, not only in Ephesus, but indeed almost throughout the whole of Asia Minor, this Paul has persuaded a great crowd to secede, telling them that these are no gods that are made by hand. Furthermore," he continued, "not only that this trade of ours should come into disrepute, but also that the temple of the great goddess Diana will be considered nothing and that her magnificence shall be swept away, whom all Asia and the civilized world worship."

The people on hearing this were filled with fury, shouting, they exclaimed, "Great Diana, of the

Ephesians!" The other name of Diana was Artemis.

The whole city became aroused and a riot occurred. A great crowd rushed where the men were preaching and dragged out Paul's two assistants. Paul tried to go to his assistants' aid but they would not let him. The town clerk quieted the people by saying to them, "Ye men of Ephesus, what man is there that knoweth not how the city of the Ephesians is a worshiper of the great goddess Diana?" He then told them that if Demetrius and his fellow craftsmen had anything against these men, and had grounds for complaint, they should go to the courts about it.

At that, he dismissed the meeting.

Paul's Deadly Peril in Jerusalem

PAUL was now on his way to Jerusalem. The parting with his friends had been a very sad one, for they thought that they would never see him again.

The ship he was on stopped at the seaport of Tyre, which is in Syria, for the purpose of unloading. Paul had time to visit his Christian friends. They implored him not to go to Jerusalem, for they were fearful of what would happen to him. But Paul would not be turned from his purpose. He was taking a large sum of money with him, which he had collected from time to time. This he wanted to give to help his poor Christian friends in Jerusalem. After seven days the ship was ready to start again and his friends went down to the beach with him. They knelt down and prayed earnestly, then bade farewell to their brave leader.

The next stop that the ship made was at Caesarea. Here again his Christian friends welcomed him. Among the crowd was a prophet from Judea, who had come especially to meet Paul. He removed Paul's girdle, or waist-scarf, and after tying

his own hands and feet with it, said solemnly, "So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the owner of this waist-scarf, and will hand him over to the Gentiles." When Paul's Christian friends heard this, they were greatly terrified for him. Crying bitterly, they urged him not to go.

But Paul only shook his head sadly, saying, "What mean ye to weep and to break my heart? For I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die in Jerusalem, for the sake of the Lord Jesus." Seeing that he was determined to go, they said, "The will of the Lord be done."

At last Paul reached Jerusalem and the Christians greeted him joyfully. They were very glad to receive the collection of money which Paul had brought them. This being the time of the Pentecost Feast, the city was crowded with Jews. There were some among them who were evil and who wished to harm Paul, because he had spoken so boldly about Jesus Christ. They recognized him as he walked into the crowds and they set up a wild cry to stir up the people against him. Seizing Paul roughly they cried out, "Men of Israel, help! This is the man who teacheth all men against the

people, the law and this place!" Soon there was a riot, even as there had been in Ephesus.

Paul was quite helpless in their midst. Not wanting any harm to happen to him in the Temple, they dragged him outside.

Near the Temple there was a Roman fortress. When the soldiers heard the uproar, they scattered the crowd until they reached Paul, who was being terribly beaten. The captain, not knowing what it was all about, but thinking Paul must be a criminal, ordered him chained to two soldiers, and then asked who he was and what he had done. As everyone shouted out a different story, he could make nothing of it at all. Nevertheless, knowing it would be best for him to take care of Paul, he commanded his soldiers to bring their prisoner into the fortress. All this time the people were denouncing Paul, fiercely calling out as they had shouted against Jesus Christ, "Away with him, away with him!"

As soon as the doors were closed against the mob, Paul quietly said to the Tribune, who was the highest in authority, "May I speak with thee?" Paul had spoken in Greek; this surprised the Tribune, as this was the language of the educated and

he thought Paul was just a common prisoner. Given permission to speak, Paul said to him, "I am a Jew belonging to Tarsus, and am a citizen of no unimportant city. Give me leave, I pray you, to speak to the people." Altho this was a strong request, it was granted him.

Paul was by this time an old man, yet he was filled with the fire of youth and the power of the Holy Spirit. Calm and fearless, he stretched out his chained hands to the people. Instantly there was a great silence. This was the last chance that the Jewish nation was to have to turn and acknowledge Christ as their King. Paul poured out his heart and soul to these people who had so wounded him. He told them of the vision he had seen on his way to Damascus, and how he had heard a voice calling solemnly, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me?" He told them how he had been guilty of the blood of Stephen and of many other experiences; how God had told him in a vision that he would send him far hence to the Gentiles. As the Jews disliked the Gentiles, it maddened them to think that an educated Jew, like Paul, should preach to them. So the uproar began all over

again, and they shouted angrily, "Away with such a fellow from the earth, for it is not fit that he should live!"

Paul was again scourged and tortured. As they were binding him, he quietly said to them, "Is it lawful for you to scourge a man that is a Roman and uncondemned?"

The captain then went up to the Tribune and said, "Take heed what thou doest, for this man is a Roman." The Tribune then said to Paul, "Tell me, art thou a Roman?" Paul answered, "Yes." The Tribune then said, "With a great sum obtained I this freedom." Paul said, "But I was freeborn." The soldiers were then ordered to unbind Paul, for he, the Tribune, was greatly afraid, having been guilty of binding a Roman citizen.

A disagreement then arose between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, the Sadducees saying there is no resurrection, neither angel nor Spirit and the Pharisees confessing both. The Pharisees cried out, "We find no evil in this man, so let us not fight against him."

The following night Paul had another vision. The Lord stood beside him and said, "Be of good

cheer, Paul, for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also in Rome." This message from God was surely worth all the distress of being rejected by his fellow-countrymen.

The plotting against Paul was still going on and forty men went to the High Priest the next day and said to him, "We have bound ourselves together under a great curse, that we will not eat, until we have slain Paul." They then asked the High Priest to send Paul forth, so that the conspirators could rush out at him and kill him. Again Paul was protected, for his nephew had heard of this vile plot and he came to Paul in the barracks and revealed it to him.

Paul asked the Tribune to listen to what this young man had to say. Granting this request, he listened attentively to him. Having heard his story he charged the young man to let no one know what he had told him, and losing no time, he ordered the captains to take two hundred soldiers to convey Paul during the night to Caesarea.

To them, he gave a letter to the Governor, Felix, explaining how he had rescued Paul from the mob, and saying it would be safer for Paul to be properly tried at Caesarea. So Paul left his beloved city.

PAUL PREACHES TO THE INFIDELS

PAUL WELCOMED AT EPHESUS

Paul's Hearing Before Felix

PAUL and his escort at length reached Caesarea, and the letter from the governor of Jerusalem was handed to Felix, governor of Caesarea.

Felix opened the letter and read: "Claudius Lysias, to His Excellency Governor Felix, Greeting. This man was taken by the Jews and would have been killed by them. Then came I with an army and secured him, having understood that he was a Roman. And when I would have known the cause wherefore they accused him, I brought him forth into their council. I perceived him to be accused of questions of their law, but to have nothing laid to his charge deserving of death or of bonds. When it was told me how the Jews laid wait for this man, I sent straightway to thee, and gave commandment unto his accusers also, to say before thee what they had against him. Farewell."

When the governor had read this letter, he asked to what province Paul belonged. On being told that he came from Cilicia, he said, "I will hear your case as soon as your persecutors make their

PAUL BEFORE FELIX AND DRUSILLA

appearance." Felix then gave orders that Paul be entertained in the hall of Herod.

After five days, Ananias, the High Priest, came down with some elders and a barrister, to appear before the governor against Paul. Stating their case to Felix, they told him that the fault that they found with Paul was that he was a perfect pest, an organizer of insurrection among the whole of the Jews and that he attempted to profane the Temple. They told Felix further that they had wished to try him according to their own law, and that the chief captain, Lysias, had taken him out of their hands, so they asked Felix to examine Paul personally.

Felix then asked Paul what he had to say for himself. Paul answering told the governor that he knew he had been in power for many years and that he felt confidence in speaking to him. He told him that he had gone up to Jerusalem to worship and that he did not discuss with anyone in the Temple nor create any disturbance in the city; that they could not prove anything against him. What he did admit was this, "According to the way, which they term heresy, I worship the God

of my fathers, believing in everything written in the law and in the prophets." He said he had been away from Jerusalem for many years, and coming back he had brought money for the poor of his nation. When they had persecuted him, he had cried out to them, "It is concerning the resurrection from the dead that I am accused this day before you."

Felix, understanding more of his doctrine, adjourned the hearing saying, "When Captain Lysias comes down, I will hear your case."

Felix then told the centurion to keep Paul and to let him have liberty to see all his friends. Later, Felix sent for Paul that he might tell both him and his wife, Drusilla, who was a Jewess, more concerning the faith of Jesus Christ. As he listened, Felix became frightened and trembling, said to Paul, "Go away for the present, and when I have an opportunity I will send for you again."

After two years, however, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus, and Felix, desiring to keep on the good side of the Jews, left Paul a prisoner.

Paul Appeals unto Caesar

ESTUS was now the governor of the province. After three days he went to Jerusalem from Caesarea. Here he was informed about Paul by the High Priest and the leading Jews. They asked him to send Paul to them to Jerusalem, for they still hoped for a chance to kill him. Festus answered that he should stay where he was in Caesarea, where he himself would be going shortly. Like every other governor of Judea, he made it a policy to pacify the Jews, if he could. Festus added, "Let those that are in authority go down with me and there make what accusations they have against this man."

After ten days, he went back to Caesarea and taking his seat in the council, asked that Paul be brought before him. When Paul appeared, those that had come down with Festus stood around him stating several serious charges against him, but not one of them could they prove. Paul, defending himself, then said to Festus, "Neither against the law of the Jews, neither against the Temple, nor yet against Caesar, have I offended anything at all."

Festus, however, anxious to please the Jews, asked Paul, "Wilt thou go to Jerusalem and there be judged of these things before me?" Paul answered, "I stand at Caesar's judgment seat when I ought to be judged. To the Jews I have done no wrong, as they will know. I appeal unto Caesar."

After Festus conferred with the Council, he answered Paul saying, "Thou hast appealed unto Caesar, unto Caesar thou shalt go."

Paul's Defence before Agrippa

KING Agrippa and Bernice came to Caesarea to salute the new governor, Festus. After they had been there for many days, Festus told Agrippa about Paul, saying, "There is a certain man left in bonds by Felix." He then told him how Paul had been before the council, having been accused by the Jews, among other things, of telling them of one Jesus who was dead, but whom he affirmed to be alive. He said that Paul had appealed to him, King Agrippa, and that he had granted him that request. Agrippa answered, "I would also hear the man myself." "Tomorrow thou shalt hear him," Festus said.

The next day when Agrippa and Bernice had come to the council chamber with stately pomp, Paul at the command of Festus was brought in. Agrippa then said to Paul, "Permission is granted you to speak for yourself." Paul then made his defense as follows, "I think myself happy, King Agrippa, because I shall answer for myself this day before thee, touching all the things whereof I am accused by the Jews, especially because I know

thou to be expert in all customs and questions which are among the Jews, wherefore I beseech thee patiently." Paul then told King Agrippa his story, how he had been born a Pharisee, studying in the Temple, how with other men of the council he had persecuted the Christians, being a party to the stoning to death of Stephen. He told him that he had shut up many of the saints in prison, on the authority of the High Priests, and he had even persecuted them in strange cities. He related his journey to Damascus, and told of the vision of the Lord he had seen on the road. From then on he had ceased persecuting the Christians, instead, preaching their cause with God's help. He ended his discourse by saying, "Having therefore obtained help from God, I continue unto this day, witnessing to both great and small, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come; that Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should show light unto the people and unto the Gentiles."

Festus became very excited on hearing this, and cried with a loud voice, "Paul, thou art beside thy-

THE ARREST OF PAUL AND SILAS

PAUL TELLS AGAIN OF HIS CONVERSION

self, much learning doth make thee mad!" But Paul calmly answered him, "I am not mad, most noble Festus, but speak forth the words of truth and soberness."

Then turning to the King, Paul said, "King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest." To the surprise of everyone, the King answered, "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian." And Paul said, "I would to God that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost and altogether such as I am, except these bonds."

When he had finished speaking, the King, the Governor and Bernice talked among themselves, saying, "This man doeth nothing deserving of death or of bonds." Turning to Festus, Agrippa said, "This man might have been set at liberty, if he had not appealed to Caesar."

Shipwrecked—but Rome at Last!

PAUL, together with several other prisoners, set sail for Rome. They were in charge of a Roman captain whose name was Julius. Two of Paul's Christian friends were with him, Aristarchus, who had been dragged into the theatre at Ephesus, and his faithful friend Luke. These men took passage on the ship, in order to be near Paul and to care for him, as Paul was now quite old and infirm. He needed more loving care than rough soldiers were likely to give him.

The boat that they were on was a merchant ship, bound for a port near Troas. When they started the weather was fair, and they soon reached their first stopping place, Sidon, where the ship took on more merchandise. Julius allowed Paul and his friends to go ashore and there they soon met some Christians who were very kind to them, supplying them with warm clothing. It was already late in August, and in those days it was dangerous to venture out to sea after the beginning of September, until March came again. Julius could only hope

for favorable winds in order that they should arrive in Rome before the winter set in.

After leaving Sidon, their trouble began. The west wind was against them and the seas became very heavy and rough. However, they managed to reach the port of Myra in safety. Here Julius ordered the soldiers and prisoners to tranship. The ship to which they were transferred was a fine large one, carrying a load of wheat from Egypt to Italy. There were a great many people on board. in fact nearly three hundred. The wind being very strong, they were forced to go wherever it drove them, so that they finally found themselves near the Island of Crete, but the pilot managed to get to the little harbor called "Fair Havens."

Having to go out of their course this way delayed them many days, making the voyage more dangerous. As Paul heard the men talking together as to the best course to follow, he offered his advice saying, "Sirs, I perceive that this voyage will be with hurt and much danger, not only to the lading and ship, but also to our lives." Paul evidently knew the sea, as he had been shipwrecked three times. But in spite of this advice the pilots

and owners of the ship thought they would rather proceed, as "Fair Havens" although a pleasant enough name, was a very miserable place.

As a soft south wind was now blowing, it seemed as tho their decision was a good one, so they let the ship loose. All of a sudden a terrific north-easterly gale swept down upon them. They had not even time to take down the mainsail, and their ship was blown helplessly south-westward over the raging waters. Presently they were driven under shelter of the small island of Clauda, and the pilot, with the help of the sailors and Luke, managed to get the row boat, which had been towed along behind, upon the deck of the ship.

Now their greatest danger was, lest their ship be blown farther South, where they knew quicksand to be. As the storm gave no signs of abating, the pilot now gave orders that all useless tackle be thrown into the sea. When day after day they saw no sun, nor any stars at night, the crew, as well as the passengers, gave up all hope of being saved.

Above the awful roar of the tempest, Paul's calm voice could clearly be heard. "Sirs," he was saying, "ye should have hearkened unto me, and not

have left Crete. But now take courage for there will be no destruction of life among you, but of the ship only. For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whom I serve, saying, 'Fear not, Paul, thou shalt be brought before Caesar, and lo, God has given thee all them that sail with thee.' Therefore, sirs, be of good cheer, for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me. However, we must be cast upon a certain island."

These words gave them courage and before long the sailors began to suspect that they were nearing land. As it was now the middle of the night, they cast a heavy weight, fastened to a chain, over the side of the ship, and let it sink through the water until it reached the bottom of the sea. By this means they ascertained that the depth was about twenty fathoms. When doing the same thing a little later, they found the measurement to be fifteen fathoms, they were quite certain that they were nearing shore. Fearing they would be smashed against some rocks, on account of the darkness, they cast four anchors from the stern and then waited patiently for daylight.

Some of the sailors now saw a chance to for-

sake the ship, so pretending to cast another anchor in the sea, they quietly let down the little boat. Paul, recognizing their mean trick, said to Julius, "Except these sailors stay in the ship, ye cannot be saved." The soldiers then rushed forward and cut the ropes that held the boat, and as it was loosed it was immediately lost in the wild waves and darkness. As the dreadful night passed and the first glimmer of light appeared, Paul again addressed his companions in distress. He told them to eat, for they had not dared to take time for proper food for many days. "There shall not a hair fall from the head of any one of you," he cried, and taking some bread he blessed it, eating it before all of them. His example encouraged them and straightway they ate, refreshing themselves. After a while they flung the heavy sacks of wheat into the sea, to lighten the ship still more.

As it was now daylight, they could see that they were indeed close to land, but they had no idea where they were. However the pilot decided to run the ship aground. They untied the rudders and hoisted the mainsail. But, alas, in a very short time they were caught where two seas met,

and the poor ship was cut in two. The soldiers cried out to their captain that they had better kill the prisoners, lest they escape. But Julius was anxious to save Paul, so he commanded that all that could, might swim to shore. Those who could not swim grabbed hold of boards and broken pieces of the ship, so that all safely reached the land.

This little island proved to be Melita. The natives ran down to help. Altho they spoke a different language, they were very kind. As everyone was wet and cold, Paul helped to collect sticks and soon a great fire was burning.

As Paul was laying the bundle of sticks that he had gathered, upon the fire, a poisonous viper crept out from the wood, fastening itself on his hand. The islanders knew that a bite from a viper meant certain death, so they said to each other, "No doubt, this man is a murderer, whom, tho he escaped the sea, yet vengeance suffereth not to live." But, Paul merely shook the viper from his hand into the fire and was not harmed. The people stared at him, expecting to see him swell with the poison and then drop down dead. But when they saw that nothing happened, they felt sure that

Paul must be a god. The governor of the island heard about the shipwrecked people and was very kind to them. When Paul heard that the governor's father was sick with a fever, he went to him and laying his hands on him, healed him. This astonished the people greatly. They brought all their sick friends to him and he healed them all, through the power of the Holy Spirit. They stayed on this island the most of the winter and when a ship left the harbor, they proceeded on their journey.

At last they were brought safely to Rome. Although from time to time Paul was a prisoner, he was allowed to live in his own hired house, with a soldier to watch him.

Men and women came daily to him to learn about Christ. Paul wrote wonderful letters to his Christian friends in all the towns and cities where he had been, and today we still read his letters and receive his wonderful message.

At the end Paul died a martyr's death, being ordered by Caesar to be slain by the sword, an honorable Roman's death. But he had finished his course and a crown of righteousness awaited him.

PAUL BEFORE FESTUS